

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

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November 22-28, 2009

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M. Zubair Khan

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Introductory note

This week report consists of 26 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 24 are national surveys.

Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Israelis Distrust Capabilities of International Forces

Many people in Israel think that a recent armed conflict with the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militias suggests that the country cannot trust international forces to maintain peace, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot. 48 per cent of respondents share this opinion and say that it would be a mistake for Israel to accept a Palestinian-Israeli peace plan that relies on international forces for security arrangements.

November 22, 2009

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

AKP Remains Strongest Party in Turkey

The Justice and Development Party (AKP) is still the most popular organization in Turkey, according to a poll by Genar. 37.5 per cent of respondents would vote for the governing party in the next legislative election.

November 24, 2009

EAST ASIA

Malaysians See Country as Seriously Corrupt

The vast majority of people in Malaysia say corruption is rampant in the country, according to a poll by the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research. 40 per cent of respondents say corruption is a very serious issue in Malaysia, while 41 per cent say it is a somewhat serious problem.

November 26, 2009

Thais Endorse PM's Handling of Cambodia Row

Most people in Thailand think Abhisit Vejjajiva has handled recent tensions with neighbouring Cambodia well, according to a poll by ABAC. 51.9 per cent of respondents say the prime minister's calm attitude has been appropriate, while 39.4 per cent say his response to Cambodia should be harsher.

November 25, 2009

EAST EUROPE

Governing Party Stumbles Still Unrivalled in Russia

Slightly fewer people in Russia are now willing to vote for the governing party but other groups have only marginal support, according to a poll by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 53 per cent of respondents would vote for United Russia (YR) in the next election to the State Duma, down three points since October.

November 23, 2009

WEST EUROPE

Sarkozy Leads Rivals in Next French Ballot

Incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy leads a list of potential presidential hopefuls in France, according to a poll by Ifop published in *Valeurs Actuelles*. 28 per cent of respondents would to re-elect Sarkozy in 2012.

November 23, 2009

Tories Maintain Commanding Lead in Britain

The opposition Conservative party remains ahead of its competitors in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 39 per cent of respondents would vote for the Tories in the next general election.

November 26, 2009

Britons Would Keep Queen's Speech Tradition

Many adults in Britain believe the Queen's speech should remain a part of the country's political life, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 44 per cent of respondents believe the tradition should continue as it is.

November 27, 2009

Britons Want to Decrease Legal Immigration

People in Britain believe too many immigrants are entering the country, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 68 per cent of respondents think the number of legal immigrants who are allowed to relocate in the United Kingdom should decrease.

November 24, 2009

Economic Crisis Takes a Toll on Spain's Zapatero

Spanish president of the government José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero has grown highly unpopular, according to a poll by *Público*. 59.4 per cent of respondents disapprove of Zapatero's performance, up 7.1 points since October.

November 25, 2009

Ban on Minarets Rejected by Swiss Majority

The controversial proposal that seeks to ban the construction of minarets in Switzerland is set to fail in tomorrow's referendum, according to a poll by the GfS Research Institute released by the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation. 53 per cent of respondents would vote against the proposed ban.

November 28, 2009

Italy's Berlusconi Remains Under 50% Mark

Most people in Italy are expressing little faith in Silvio Berlusconi, according to a poll by IPR Marketing published in *La Repubblica*. 51 per cent of respondents have no confidence in the prime minister, unchanged since October.

November 24, 2009

Many EU Residents Reduced Their 2009 Vacation Budget

About 4 in 10 EU residents (39%) interviewed in September reported cutting back on their vacation budget in 2009. Forty-four percent of residents said they did not reduce their budget, while 14% responded that they never go on vacation.

November 26, 2009

NORTH AMERICA

In U.S., More Support for Increasing Troops in Afghanistan

Americans over the last two weeks have become slightly more likely to favor sending more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, and slightly less likely to favor a reduction in forces. At this point, 47% of Americans would advise President Obama to increase the number of U.S. troops -- either by the roughly 40,000 recommended by the commanding general in Afghanistan or by a smaller amount -- while 39% would advise Obama to reduce the number of troops. Another 9% would opt to leave troop levels as they are, while 5% have no opinion.

November 25, 2009

Americans at Odds With Recent Terror Trial Decisions

By 59% to 36%, more Americans believe accused Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed should be tried in a military court, rather than in a civilian criminal court. Most Republicans and independents favor holding the trial in a military court, while the slight majority of Democrats disagree.

November 27, 2009

Steady Approval Numbers for Obama in U.S.

A majority of Americans are satisfied with the way Barack Obama is handling his job, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents approve of their president's performance.

November 27, 2009

Americans Want Death Penalty for 9/11 Planners

A large majority of people in the United States think that, if five men accused of participating in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, are found guilty by a federal court, they should be sentenced to death, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 69 per cent of respondents share this opinion.

November 25, 2009

Americans Want Executive Salary Caps

A large majority of people in the United States would like to see the salaries of top executives capped, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents strongly support this idea, and 31 per cent back it moderately.

November 22, 2009

Canadians Reject Status Quo on Prostitution

People in Canada believe the country's laws on prostitution should be modified, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion published in *Maclean's*. 50 per cent of respondents would prefer to decriminalize some of the actions surrounding prostitution that are currently illegal and allowing adults to engage in consensual prostitution.

November 28, 2009

Canadians Have Low Expectations on Copenhagen

Few Canadians believe that the upcoming Climate Change Summit in Denmark will lead to a comprehensive global accord, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. While 58 per cent of respondents would like to see a legally binding agreement that sets specific targets for all signatories, only five per cent believe this will actually happen.

November 27, 2009

Canadians More Satisfied with Government on H1N1

People in Canada are now less critical of the government's handling of the H1N1 pandemic, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 45 per cent of respondents

are content with the federal government's preparedness for the Swine Flu outbreak, up 13 points since early November.

November 26, 2009

Where the Public Stands on Immigration Reform

While the immigration issues have not been among the top election issues, Pew Research polling has found significant public support for both tougher enforcement and the so-called "path to citizenship," but several factors suggest that the debate could be a difficult one.

November 23, 2009

LATIN AMERICA

Peruvians Continue to Distrust García's Leadership

Two thirds of people in Peru express discontent with the leadership of Alan García, according to a poll by Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado published in *El Comercio*. 66 per cent of respondents disapprove of the president's performance, down one point since October.

November 25, 2009

Bolivians Call for Debate Before Election

Most people in Bolivia want candidates running for the presidency to engage in a public meeting before an election takes place next month, according to a poll by Equipos Mori. 73.8 per cent of respondents support holding a debate featuring the presidential candidates.

November 25, 2009

Colombians and Venezuelans at Odds on Leadership

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez recently announced the country should "prepare for war" against Colombia, a sign of how relations between the two nations continue to deteriorate. A Gallup survey finds that 14% of Colombians approved of Venezuela's leadership in August 2009, which is similar to the 16% measured last year, but down from 29% in July 2007.

November 24, 2009

AUSTRALASIA

Australians Convinced of Man-Made Climate Change

The majority of Australians think climate change is a reality and a consequence of human activity, according to a poll by Essential Research. 53 per cent of respondents share this opinion, while 34 per cent say the phenomenon is a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate.

November 22, 2009

MIDDLE EAST

Israelis Distrust Capabilities of International Forces

November 22, 2009

Many people in Israel think that a recent armed conflict with the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militias suggests that the country cannot trust international forces to maintain peace, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot. 48 per cent of respondents share this opinion and say that it would be a mistake for Israel to accept a Palestinian-Israeli peace plan that relies on international forces for security arrangements.

In July 2006, Israel and Hezbollah clashed in Lebanese territory for more than a month in what is now known as the Second Lebanon War. Israel has criticized the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for failing to disarm Hezbollah to this day.

On Nov. 18, Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator in peace talks with Israel, criticized the decision by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to allow for the construction of some 900 new settlements in occupied territory, declaring, "Israel builds settlements on the same land that would be the ground of Palestinian state. (...) Israel should choose peace or settlements."

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? - "The key lesson to Israel of the gross failure of the international forces in southern Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah from illegally deploying missiles in the area—and their gross failure to do anything significant to clear out these weapons—is that it would be a mistake for Israel to accept a Palestinian-Israeli peace plan that relies on international forces for security arrangements."

Agree	48%
Neither	13%
Disagree	24%
Not sure	15%

Source: Maagar Mochot

Methodology: Interviews with 510 Israeli adults, conducted from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, 2009. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA
AKP Remains Strongest Party in Turkey

November 24, 2009

The Justice and Development Party (AKP) is still the most popular organization in Turkey, according to a poll by Genar. 37.5 per cent of respondents would vote for the governing party in the next legislative election.

The Republican People’s Party (CHP) is second with 24.7 per cent, followed by the National Action Party (MHP) with 17.5 per cent, the Democratic Society Party (DTP) with 6.6 per cent, and the Felicity Party (SP) with 4.4 per cent.

Turkish voters renewed the Great National Assembly in July 2007. Final results gave the AKP 46.6 per cent of the vote and 341 seats in the legislature. Parties require at least 10 per cent of the

vote to earn seats under the country's proportional representation system. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a member of the AKP, has served as prime minister since March 2003.

Throughout this year, the Erdogan administration has been working on ending a 25-year-long conflict with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) by extending the rights of close to 12 million Kurds who currently live in Turkey.

On Nov. 20, Erdogan fiercely criticized the parties that have opposed his proposal regarding the Kurdish issue, saying, "[The opposition] who call us separatist in fact should look at themselves in the mirror. They are the real separatists. Because if you can't integrate the citizens of 81 provinces, then you can't call yourselves Turkey's party."

Polling Data

What party would you support in the next parliamentary election?

Justice and Development Party (AKP)	37.5%
Republican People's Party (CHP)	24.7%
National Action Party (MHP)	17.5%
Democratic Society Party (DTP)	6.6%
Felicity Party (SP)	4.4%

Source: Genar

Methodology: Interviews with 2,152 Turk adults, conducted from Oct. 19 to Oct. 26, 2009. Margin of error is 2.0 per cent.

EAST ASIA

Malaysians See Country as Seriously Corrupt

November 26, 2009

The vast majority of people in Malaysia say corruption is rampant in the country, according to a poll by the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research. 40 per cent of respondents say corruption is a very serious issue in Malaysia, while 41 per cent say it is a somewhat serious problem.

The United Malays National Organization (UMNO)—the biggest party in a coalition of 12 political factions known as the National Front (BN)—has formed the government after every election since the Asian country attained its independence from Britain in 1957.

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took over as prime minister in October 2003, after the retirement of Mahathir Mohamad, who served for more than 22 years. In the March 2004 election, the National Front secured 198 of the 219 seats in the House of Representatives. Abdullah was sworn in as head of government with the biggest majority in three decades.

In the March 2008 ballot, the National Front won 140 seats in the legislature. The coalition's share of the vote dropped drastically, from 64.4 per cent in 2004, to 50.27 per cent in 2008.

According to Human Rights Watch, the most recent election was "grossly unfair" and marred by irregularities.

In September 2008, Abdullah announced his intention to step down in 2009. Najib Razak—who served as deputy prime minister and finance minister—took over as head of government in April.

Earlier this month, the anti-corruption group Transparency International (TI) released its annual corruption perception index, showing that Malaysia has dropped from the 48th place to the 56th spot in a ranking of 180 countries.

Datuk Paul Low, TI's president in Malaysia, praised the Najib administration's efforts to stem corruption by creating the Anti-Corruption Commission, among other things, but warned that Malaysia's low score this year "may be attributed to the perception of little progress in combating corruption, and lack of political will in implementing effective anti-corruption measures."

Polling Data

How serious do you think corruption is in this country?

Very serious	40%
Somewhat serious	41%
Somewhat not serious	12%
Not serious at all	1%
Not sure	6%

Source: Merdeka Center for Opinion Research

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,241 Malaysian adults, conducted from Sept. 16 to Oct. 12, 2009. Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

Thais Endorse PM's Handling of Cambodia Row

November 25, 2009

Most people in Thailand think Abhisit Vejjajiva has handled recent tensions with neighbouring Cambodia well, according to a poll by ABAC. 51.9 per cent of respondents say the prime ministers calm attitude has been appropriate, while 39.4 per cent say his response to Cambodia should be harsher.

Abhisit Vejjajiva, leader of the Democratic Party (PP), has been in office since December 2008.

Relations between Thailand and Cambodia have become increasingly tense as, in early November, the Cambodian government announced that it had named former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra as an economic adviser.

Thaksin, who was ousted in a coup in 2006, is a polarizing figure in Thailand. His supporters and critics have clashed on the streets since his departure from the country, and Thaksin has called

for a "revolution" against the Abhisit government. The former prime minister has been convicted in cases of conflict of interest and would serve two years in jail if he returns to Thailand.

On Nov. 10, Thaksin arrived in Cambodia. The Thai government called for his extradition, which the Cambodian government rejected. Both countries have recalled their respective ambassadors and top diplomats over the Thaksin appointment.

On Nov. 17, Panitan Wattanayagorn, deputy secretary-general to Thai prime minister Abhisit, confirmed that the Thai government is looking for ways to curb aid to Cambodia over the Thaksin issue, declaring, "Most of the projects discussed are aid and loans for infrastructure projects, which might be delayed or cancelled."

Polling Data

Do you think the actions of Thai prime minister Abhisit Vejjajiva regarding Cambodia were appropriate or inappropriate?

Appropriate, he stayed calm in spite of provocation	51.9%
Inappropriate, he should take harsher measures in light of these developments	39.4%

Source: Assumption University of Thailand (ABAC)

Methodology: Interviews with 1,344 Thai adults in 17 provinces, conducted in November 2009. Margin of error is 2 per cent.

EAST EUROPE

Governing Party Stumbles Still Unrivalled in Russia

November 23, 2009

Slightly fewer people in Russia are now willing to vote for the governing party but other groups have only marginal support, according to a poll by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 53 per cent of respondents would vote for United Russia (UR) in the next election to the State Duma, down three points since October.

The Communist Party (KPRF) is a very distant second with only eight per cent, followed by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) with four per cent, and the opposition movement A Just Russia also with four per cent.

Russian voters renewed the State Duma in December 2007. United Russia—whose candidate list was headed by then president Vladimir Putin—secured 64.1 per cent of the vote and 315 of the legislature's 450 seats. On that same month, Putin endorsed Dmitry Medvedev as a presidential candidate, and Medvedev said it would be of the "utmost importance" to have Putin as prime minister.

In March 2008, Medvedev easily won Russia's presidential election with 70.28 per cent of the vote. In May, Medvedev was sworn in as president. His nomination of Putin as prime minister was confirmed by the State Duma in a 392-56 vote.

On Nov. 18, Medvedev said his government has not decided yet whether to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) alone or in combination with its two customs partners—Kazakhstan and Belarus—declaring, "For us the main thing is speed. Whatever way is faster we will take it".

Polling Data

Which party would you vote for in the election to the State Duma?

	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009
United Russia (YR)	53%	56%	54%
Communist Party (KPRF)	8%	7%	7%
Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR)	4%	6%	4%
A Just Russia	4%	4%	4%

Source: All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,600 Russian adults, conducted on Nov. 14 and Nov. 15, 2009. Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

WEST EUROPE

Sarkozy Leads Rivals in Next French Ballot

November 23, 2009

Incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy leads a list of potential presidential hopefuls in France, according to a poll by Ifop published in *Valeurs Actuelles*. 28 per cent of respondents would to re-elect Sarkozy in 2012.

Socialist Party (PS) leader Martine Aubry is second with 20 per cent, followed by François Bayrou of the Democratic Movement (MD) with 14 per cent, Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Front with 11 per cent, Olivier Besancenot of the far-left Revolutionary Communist League (LCR) with nine per cent, and former prime minister Dominique de Villepin with eight per cent.

Support is lower for Green Party leader Cécile Duflot, Marie-George Buffet of the French Communist Party (PCF), Nathalie Arthaud of the far-left Workers' Struggle (LO), and Nicolas Dupont-Aignan of the new Arise the Republic party (DLR).

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

Earlier this month, Marie NDiaye, a Senegalese-French novelist, became the first black woman to win the most renowned French literary prize, le Prix Goncourt, for her novel *Three Powerful Women (Trois Femmes Puissantes)*. Days later, French media outlets re-produced an old interview with NDiaye in which she criticized the Sarkozy administration, saying, "I find the police state, vulgar atmosphere detestable," and calling some of the ministers "monstrous."

Eric Raoult, an UMP legislator, brought the issue to French culture minister Frédéric Mitterrand saying that Goncourt winners should show "certain respect towards [French] institutions".

Aubry, the PS leader, called Raoult's comments "unacceptable and worrying", adding that he is behaving like "political censors (who) are so afraid of assuming their actions that they prefer to silence their opponents".

Polling Data

If the first round of the presidential election took place next Sunday, which of the following candidates would you vote for?

Nicolas Sarkozy	28%
Martine Aubry	20%
François Bayrou	14%
Marine Le Pen	11%
Olivier Besancenot	9%
Dominique de Villepin	8%
Cécile Duflot	5%
Marie-George Buffet	3%
Nathalie Arthaud	1%
Nicolas Dupont-Aignan	1%

Source: Ifop / Valeurs Actuelles

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 892 French voters, conducted on Oct. 29 and Oct. 30, 2009. No margin of error was provided.

Tories Maintain Commanding Lead in Britain

November 26, 2009

The opposition Conservative party remains ahead of its competitors in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 39 per cent of respondents would vote for the Tories in the next general election.

The governing Labour party is second with 22 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with 21 per cent. 18 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties.

In June 2007, Gordon Brown officially became Labour leader and prime minister, replacing Tony Blair. Brown had worked as chancellor of the exchequer. Blair served as Britain's prime minister since May 1997, winning majority mandates in the 1997, 2001 and 2005 elections to the House of Commons.

Since December 2005, David Cameron has been the leader of the Conservative party. In December 2007, current parliamentarian Nick Clegg became the new leader of the Liberal Democrats.

On Nov. 23, Cameron discussed his economic policies at the Confederation of British Industry Conference in London, saying, "A Conservative government won't just be one that gets out of your way. It'll be one that will roll its sleeves up and get involved too. (...) So, if we win that election, we will send the message out loud and clear: if you want to set up a business, make an investment, employ new people, then we are on your side. We will be unashamedly pro-enterprise and pro-wealth creation."

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3, 2010. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion.

Polling Data

If a General Election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency? - Decided Voters with Leaners

	Nov. 23	Nov. 6	Oct. 16
Conservative	39%	38%	40%
Labour	22%	24%	23%
Liberal Democrats	21%	20%	20%
Other	18%	17%	16%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,004 British adults, conducted from Nov. 20 to Nov. 23, 2009. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Britons Would Keep Queen's Speech Tradition

November 27, 2009

Many adults in Britain believe the Queen's speech should remain a part of the country's political life, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 44 per cent of respondents believe the tradition should continue as it is.

Conversely, 23 per cent of respondents believe the Queen's speech is irrelevant, 15 per cent would abandon the tradition, and eight per cent would prefer an address by the British prime minister.

In the United Kingdom, the Queen's speech is read by the monarch before both Houses of Parliament. The speech describes the government's agenda, and discusses some of their planned bills.

In June 2007, Gordon Brown officially became Labour leader and prime minister, replacing Tony Blair. Brown had worked as chancellor of the exchequer. Blair served as Britain's prime minister since May 1997, winning majority mandates in the 1997, 2001 and 2005 elections to the House of Commons.

Since December 2005, David Cameron has been the leader of the Conservative party. In December 2007, current parliamentarian Nick Clegg became the new leader of the Liberal Democrats.

On Nov. 18, the Labour government headed by Brown presented seven bills in the speech, read by Queen Elizabeth II.

Earlier this month, Clegg suggested that this year's Queen's speech be scrapped, adding, "It is a waste of everyone's time, and should be cancelled in favour of an emergency programme of political reform. That is the only job this rump of a Parliament is fit for."

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3, 2010. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion.

Polling Data

The final Queen's speech before the next General Election was read on Wednesday. The Queen's speech is written by the government of the day and sets out their planned bills for the Parliament. It is read by the Queen. There have been a number of suggestions about the future of the Queen's speech. Which of the following best sums up your view?

The Queen's speech should continue as it is	44%
The actual speech is irrelevant; the government should just set out its plans in writing	23%
The whole idea of the Queen's speech should be abandoned	15%
The Queen's speech needs to be read but it should be read by the Prime Minister	8%
Don't know	10%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,004 British adults, conducted from Nov. 20 to Nov. 23, 2009. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Britons Want to Decrease Legal Immigration

November 24, 2009

People in Britain believe too many immigrants are entering the country, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 68 per cent of respondents think the number of legal immigrants who are allowed to relocate in the United Kingdom should decrease.

In June 2007, Gordon Brown officially became Labour leader and prime minister, replacing Tony Blair. Brown had worked as chancellor of the exchequer. Blair served as Britain's prime

minister since May 1997, winning majority mandates in the 1997, 2001 and 2005 elections to the House of Commons.

Last year, the British government introduced changes to its immigration policies. All investors and graduates under the age of 40—from countries that do not belong to the European Union (EU)—must now earn the equivalent of \$66,000 a year in their home countries in order to resettle in Britain. Skilled workers from non-EU countries can only be recruited if a vacancy cannot be filled.

On Nov. 12, Brown vowed to "tighten" immigration rules and proposed establishing a points-based test for migrants who want to become probationary citizens and doubling the period for jobs to be advertised first to British workers from two to four weeks.

Brown declared: "I have never agreed with the lazy elitism that dismisses immigration as an issue, or portrays anyone who has concerns about immigration as a racist. Immigration is not an issue for fringe parties nor a taboo subject. (...) People want to be assured that newcomers will accept the responsibilities as well as the rights that come with living here."

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3, 2010. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion.

Polling Data

From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think the number of legal immigrants who are allowed to relocate in the United Kingdom should increase, remain the same, or decrease?

	Nov. 2009	Aug. 2009
Increase	7%	7%
Remain the same	19%	25%
Decrease	68%	63%
Not sure	5%	5%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,006 British adults, conducted from Nov. 17 to Nov. 18, 2009. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Economic Crisis Takes a Toll on Spain's Zapatero

November 25, 2009

Spanish president of the government José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero has grown highly unpopular, according to a poll by *Público*. 59.4 per cent of respondents disapprove of Zapatero's performance, up 7.1 points since October.

Zapatero was sworn in as president of the government in April 2004, following the victory of the Socialist Worker's Party (PSOE) in the legislative ballot. The conservative Popular Party (PP)

had administered the government under José María Aznar since 1996. Mariano Rajoy took over as PP leader in August 2003. 65.9 per cent of respondents disapprove of Rajoy's performance as opposition leader.

In March 2008, Spain held a general election. The PSOE secured a new term in office with 43.36 per cent of the vote and 169 seats in the lower house, followed by the PP with 39.85 per cent and 153 mandates. Zapatero retained his post as head of government.

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

Spain's economy has been severely affected by the global financial downturn, as well as by its own setbacks in the domestic real estate market. The Spanish treasury has said that it could take "until 2011" for the national economy to recover from the crisis. The government has pledged a stimulus package worth close to \$120 billion U.S. to help the slumping manufacturing and service sectors. The unemployment rate rose to 17.9 per cent in the second quarter of 2009.

Last June, the government created a fund worth about \$148.2 billion U.S. destined for small banks to merge and reorganize, as part of a drive to reform the financial sector.

On Nov. 23, Zapatero declared: "The size of Spain's financial sector will require adjustment in order for it to be compatible with the outlook for the business." The president added that his government will push ahead with more reform proposals in several sectors of the economy.

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero as president?

	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009
Approve	30.9%	35.3%
Disapprove	59.4%	52.3%

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of Mariano Rajoy as leader of the opposition?

	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009
Approve	21.9%	15.0%
Disapprove	65.9%	60.6%

Source: Público

Methodology: Interviews with 3,200 Spanish adults, conducted from Oct. 13 to Nov. 4, 2009. No margin of error was provided.

Ban on Minarets Rejected by Swiss Majority

November 28, 2009

The controversial proposal that seeks to ban the construction of minarets in Switzerland is set to fail in tomorrow's referendum, according to a poll by the GfS Research Institute released by the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation. 53 per cent of respondents would vote against the proposed ban.

Since 1959, Switzerland has formed its government under a power-sharing agreement known as the "Magic Formula." The country's four major political parties are represented in the seven-post cabinet. Presidents are elected by the Assembly for one-year terms from the pool of cabinet members. The president remains a member of the cabinet and does not hold any extra powers

Within the frame of Switzerland's direct-democracy system, a group of citizens or leaders of the eight cantons together can call a referendum to challenge a law approved by the federal legislature. The vote is decided with a simple majority.

Last year, the ultra-nationalist Swiss People's Party (SVP) gathered more than 113,000 signatures to force a nationwide referendum on banning the construction of minarets in Swiss mosques. The minaret—a tower from which the call to prayer is sounded—is a distinctive architectural feature of Islamic mosques. At this time, only the mosques in Geneva, Wangen near Olten, Winterthur and Zurich have minarets.

The government and most members of the current cabinet oppose the Minaret Initiative, but cannot impede the plebiscite from happening.

Earlier this month, SVP member Oskar Freysinger expressed support for the ban, saying, "The minaret is not an innocent building. It has been used in history to mark territory, to mark the progression of Islamic law in foreign countries."

Polling Data

If the vote on banning the construction of minarets were held tomorrow, how would you vote?

	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009
In favour	37%	34%
Against	53%	53%
Not sure	10%	13%

Source: GfS Research Institute / Swiss Broadcasting Corporation

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,213 Swiss adults, conducted from Nov. 9 to Nov. 14, 2009. Margin of error is 2.9 per cent.

Italy's Berlusconi Remains Under 50% Mark

November 24, 2009

Most people in Italy are expressing little faith in Silvio Berlusconi, according to a poll by IPR Marketing published in *La Repubblica*. 51 per cent of respondents have no confidence in the prime minister, unchanged since October.

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

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

The prime minister's private life has been featured prominently in Italian and foreign media since May, when Veronica Lario—who has been married to Berlusconi for the past 19 years—said she would seek to divorce him after suggesting that he is "a man who frequents minors." Lario was referring to Berlusconi's attendance to the birthday celebrations of 18-year-old aspiring actress Noemi Letizia, who confirmed the prime minister's presence that day.

On Nov. 18, Berlusconi rejected the notion that a new legislative vote is in the works, declaring, "I am surprised to see reports that continue to make it seem that early elections are imminent. I have never considered anything like that."

Polling Data

Do you have confidence in Silvio Berlusconi?

	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009
Yes	45%	45%	47%
No	51%	51%	50%

Source: IPR Marketing / La Repubblica

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,000 Italian adults, conducted from Nov. 13 to Nov. 16, 2009. No margin of error was provided.

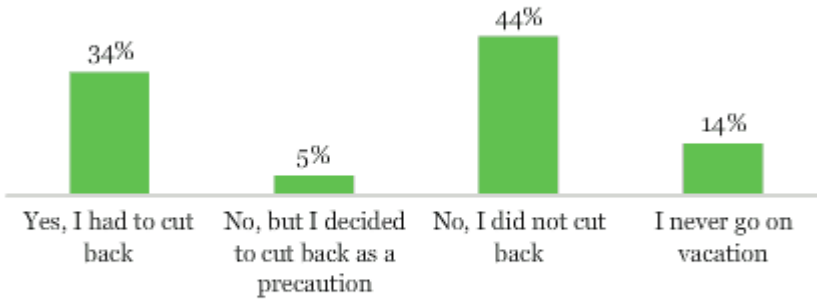
Many EU Residents Reduced Their 2009 Vacation Budget

40% who cut their budget took shorter trips

November 26, 2009

About 4 in 10 EU residents (39%) interviewed in September reported cutting back on their vacation budget in 2009. Forty-four percent of residents said they did not reduce their budget, while 14% responded that they never go on vacation.

Under the current economic conditions, did you have to cut back in 2009 on the budget that you normally spend on vacation?

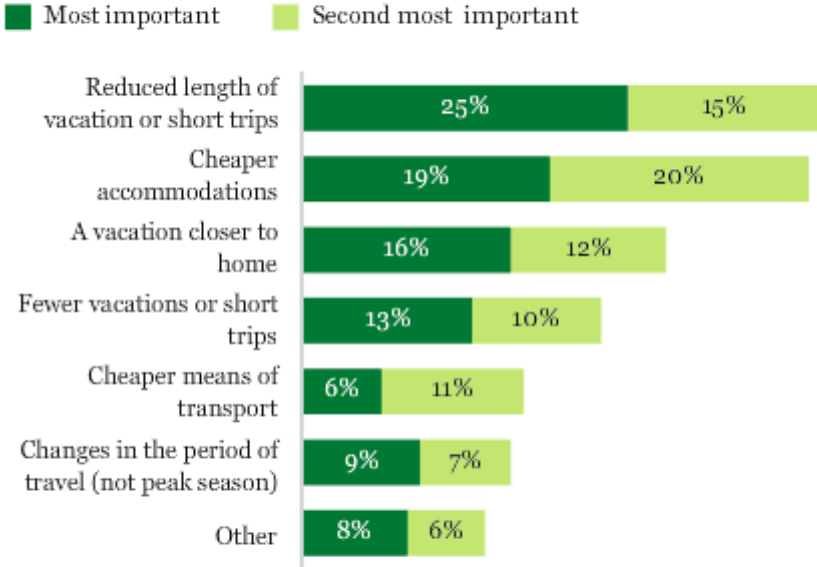


Flash Eurobarometer
Sept. 7-11, 2009
Base: all respondents, % EU 27

GALLUP®

EU residents reduced or planned to reduce their vacation budgets in a variety of ways. They most often did so by taking shorter vacations (40%), finding cheaper accommodation (39%), and by vacationing closer to home (28%).

How did you or will you cut back on your vacation budget in 2009? What was or will be the most important change that you made or will make? And what was or will be the second most important change?



Flash Eurobarometer
 Sept. 7-11, 2009
 Base: those who took a vacation or still planned to take a vacation and cut spending, % EU 27

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In addition, about one in eight (12%) EU residents who had taken a vacation or still planned to take one at the time of the survey booked their vacation using a last-minute offer -- and a majority of them (54%) did so to get a cheaper price. More than one-third (38%) of those who booked a last-minute deal indicated that they made a late decision about the vacation itself (whether to go) and more than one in five (21%) cited a "last-minute" decision on the destination.

Citizens of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, and two Nordic countries were the *least* likely to say they cut back on their vacation budget in 2009 (between 19% and 27%). Irish citizens (64%) and those from the Baltic states (Lithuania 61%, Latvia 56%, Estonia 52%) were among the *most* likely to have made such a reduction.

*Least Likely to Have to Cut Back on
Vacation Budget*

Country	% Cutting back on vacation budget
Denmark	19
Sweden	21
Belgium	24
Luxembourg	26
The Netherlands	27

Flash Eurobarometer
Sept. 7-11, 2009

GALLUP®

*Most Likely to Have to Cut Back on
Vacation Budget*

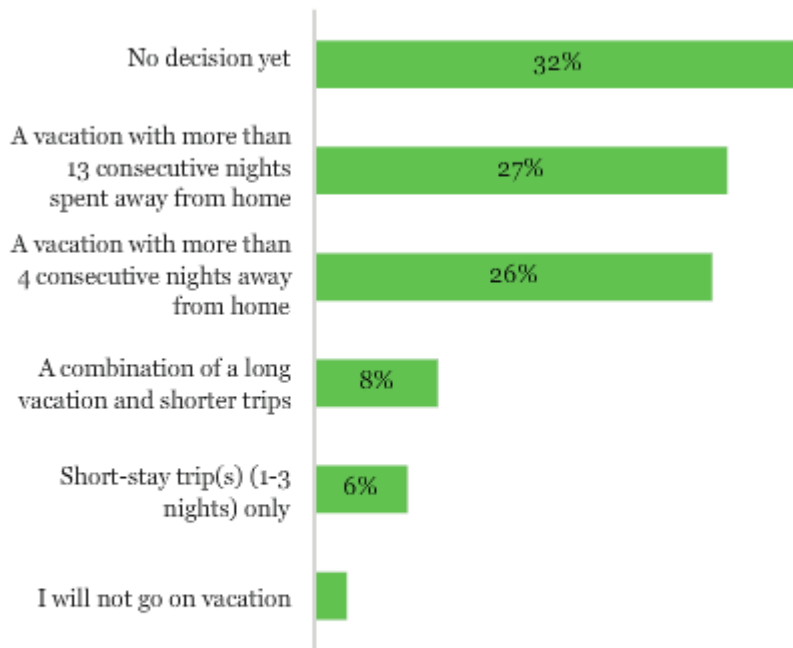
Country	% Cutting back on vacation budget
Ireland	64
Lithuania	61
Latvia	56
Estonia	52
Malta	52

Flash Eurobarometer
Sept. 7-11, 2009

GALLUP®

Looking ahead to next year, more EU residents who said they could afford a vacation in 2010 are planning a long one (that is, more than 13 consecutive nights spent away from home) than at the equivalent time last year (27% now vs. 20% who had plans for a vacation in 2009). This could either signal the end of troubled times for the tourism industry or be a sign that people are still willing to take vacations but finding ways of making them cost less.

What kind of vacation are you planning for 2010?



Flash Eurobarometer

Sept. 7-11, 2009

Base: those who can afford a vacation in 2010, % EU 27

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Eurobarometer Reports

Gallup conducts Flash Eurobarometer surveys for the European Commission. These surveys enable European policy-makers to hear the voices of EU residents in the 27 member states. Gallup has worked with the Commission on more than 90 Flash Eurobarometer surveys (with close to 1.5 million interviews) on subjects from the euro to consumer protection and from higher education to energy policies.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews, with some face-to-face (F2F) interviews due to the low fixed-line telephone coverage in certain east European countries, with 24,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted from Sept. 7-11, 2009, in 27 EU member states. For results, based on the sample in each member state, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points. 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.

NORTH AMERICA

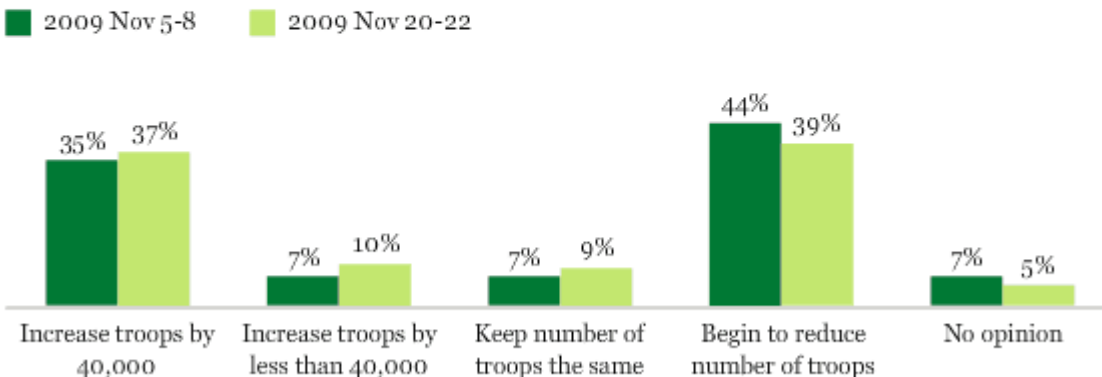
In U.S., More Support for Increasing Troops in Afghanistan

Americans now tilt slightly toward sending in new troops as opposed to reducing number

November 25, 2009

Americans over the last two weeks have become slightly more likely to favor sending more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, and slightly less likely to favor a reduction in forces. At this point, 47% of Americans would advise President Obama to increase the number of U.S. troops -- either by the roughly 40,000 recommended by the commanding general in Afghanistan or by a smaller amount -- while 39% would advise Obama to reduce the number of troops. Another 9% would opt to leave troop levels as they are, while 5% have no opinion.

Which of the following would you like to see President Obama do -- [ROTATED: increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan by the roughly 40,000 the U.S. commanding general there has recommended, increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan but by a smaller amount than the 40,000 the U.S. commanding general there has recommended, keep the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan the same as now, (or) begin to reduce the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan]?



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"Since August 2008, between 30% and 37% of Americans have said it was a mistake to send troops to Afghanistan. Sixty percent in the current poll say U.S. involvement was not a mistake."

President Obama on Tuesday announced that he will present his new "comprehensive strategy" on Afghanistan to the American people early next week. Obama gave no indication of exactly what he will recommend. Media reports suggest that Obama's strategy will probably include the addition of at least some new U.S. troops. It is not known whether that number will approach the 40,000 new troops the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, has recommended.

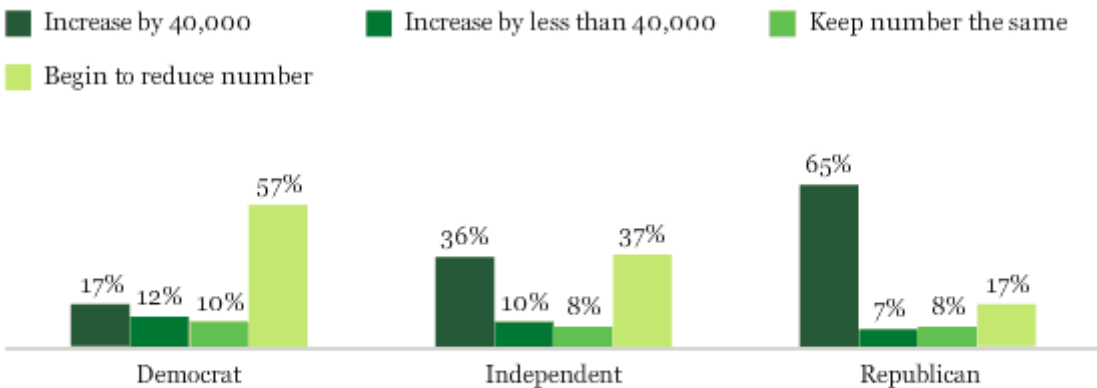
The question in the Nov. 20-22 *USA Today*/Gallup poll gives respondents four choices and asks them to indicate which action they would most like to see President Obama take.

Asked the same question earlier in November, Americans tilted toward the troop-reduction option over the troop-increase option, 44% to 42%. Now, the data tilt in the other direction. Those who want a troop increase outnumber those who want a reduction, 47% to 39%.

Despite these modest shifts, the data continue to show that less than half of Americans would support an Obama decision to increase troops. Similarly, slightly less than half would support a decision to leave things unchanged (9%) or to begin to withdraw troops (39%). In short, Americans remain split on the volatile subject of what to do in Afghanistan.

Republicans have historically been more supportive than Democrats of American involvement in Afghanistan. That partisan distinction continues. The majority of Democrats currently favor a reduction of troops; the majority of Republicans favor a troop increase. Independents tilt more toward the Republican position.

Preference for U.S. Troops in Afghanistan, by Political Party



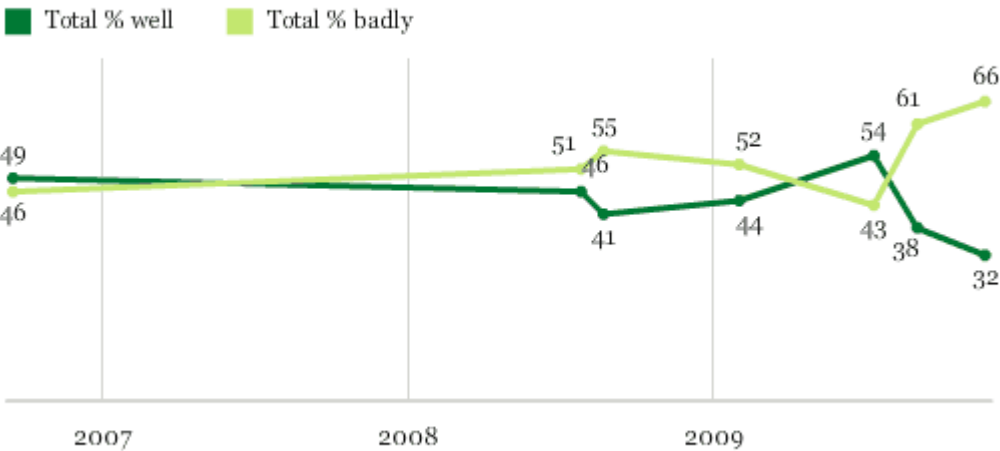
USA Today/Gallup, Nov. 20-22, 2009

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Views on Afghanistan More Broadly

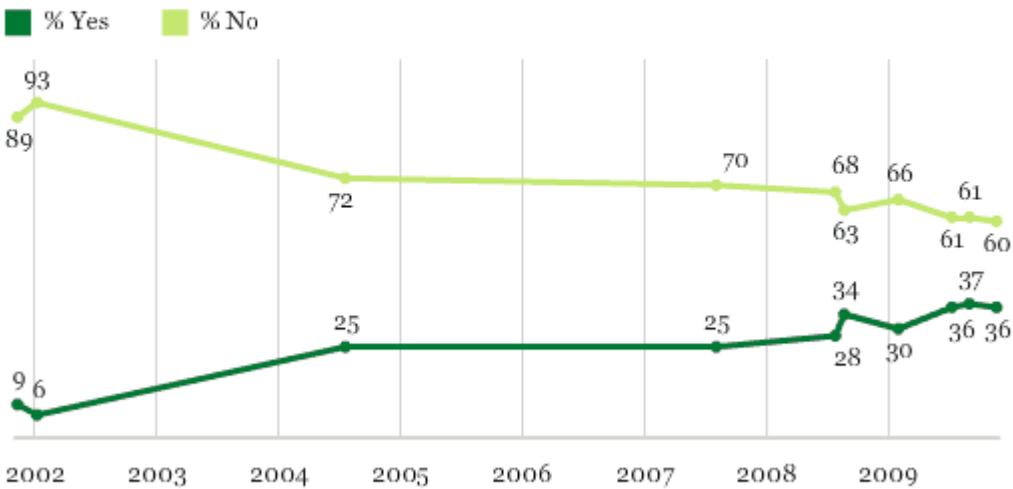
President Obama is making decisions on Afghanistan at a time when Americans' perceptions that the war there is going badly for the U.S. have reached a new high. A record 66% of Americans now say things are going badly for the U.S. in Afghanistan, up from 61% in early September. At the same time, 36% say U.S. involvement was a mistake, unchanged from views over the summer.

In general, how would you say things are going for the U.S. in Afghanistan -- [ROTATED: very well, moderately well, moderately badly, (or) very badly]?



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Thinking now about U.S. military action in Afghanistan that began in October 2001, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending military forces to Afghanistan, or not?



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Support for U.S. involvement in Afghanistan was very high in November 2001, shortly after then-President George W. Bush first sent U.S. troops there in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Nine percent said sending troops was a mistake, a percentage that fell to 6% in January 2002. Perceptions that U.S. involvement was a mistake rose thereafter, albeit modestly. Since August 2008, between 30% and 37% of Americans have said it was a mistake to send troops to Afghanistan. Sixty percent in the current poll say U.S. involvement was not a mistake.

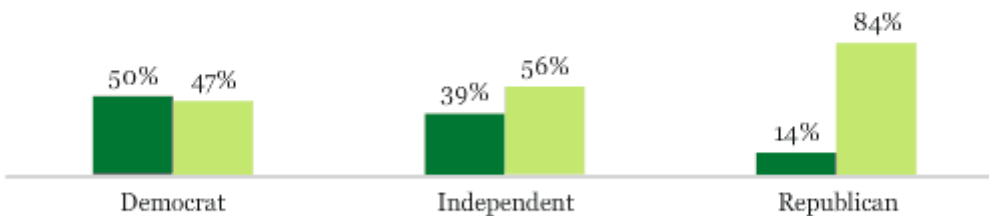
Gallup first asked Americans to assess the way things were going in Afghanistan in 2006, at which time slightly less than half said the war was going badly for the U.S. Perceptions that the war was going badly increased to above 50% in three polls in 2008 and early 2009, only to fall to a new low of 43% in July of this year. Views on the war became sharply more negative near the end of the summer -- by early September, 61% said the war was going badly. Now, 66% of Americans share a negative view of the way the war is going for the U.S.

President Obama is making his decision on Afghanistan in the context of a split opinion on the war among those who identify with his own party. Fifty percent of Democrats say the war in Afghanistan has been a mistake, while 47% say it has not. Republicans overwhelmingly reject the idea that the war was a mistake. Independents echo the Republican view that it was not a mistake, though their views are more evenly divided.

Thinking now about U.S. military action in Afghanistan that began in October 2001, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending military forces to Afghanistan, or not?

By party ID

■ % Yes ■ % No



USA Today/Gallup, Nov. 20-22, 2009

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Implications

President Obama's decision on U.S. military policy in Afghanistan will be one of the most important of his first year -- if not his first term -- as president. If, as expected, the president decides to "stay the course" in Afghanistan, he will be doing so with the understanding that most Americans agree that U.S. involvement there is warranted. At the same time, the majority of Americans now perceive that the situation there is going badly for the U.S., perhaps helping explain Americans' increased willingness to sanction sending additional troops to Afghanistan. Still, Obama will have less-than-majority support if he increases the number of U.S. troops in that country. This underscores the political sensitivity of any decision he makes on Afghanistan, particularly given that those who identify with his own party are solidly against sending in new troops.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,017 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Nov. 20-22, 2009. 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 land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

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

Americans at Odds With Recent Terror Trial Decisions

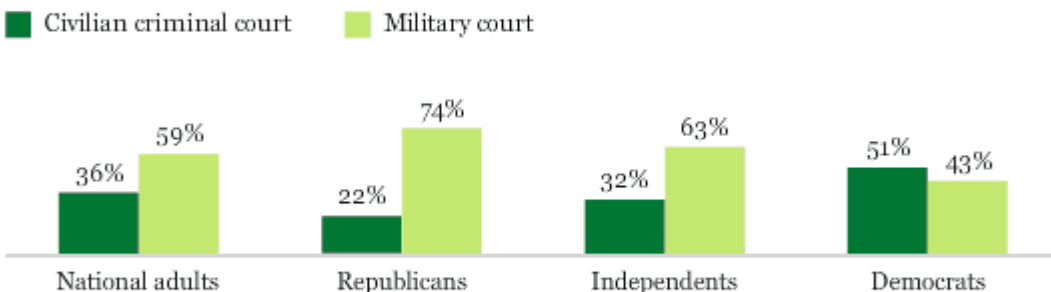
Majorities would prefer trying 9/11 kingpin in a military court, away from New York

November 27, 2009

By 59% to 36%, more Americans believe accused Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed should be tried in a military court, rather than in a civilian criminal court. Most Republicans and independents favor holding the trial in a military court, while the slight majority of Democrats disagree.

Preferred Jurisdiction for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed Trial

Do you think it would be better to hold Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's trial in a civilian criminal court or a military court?



USA Today/Gallup, Nov. 20-22, 2009

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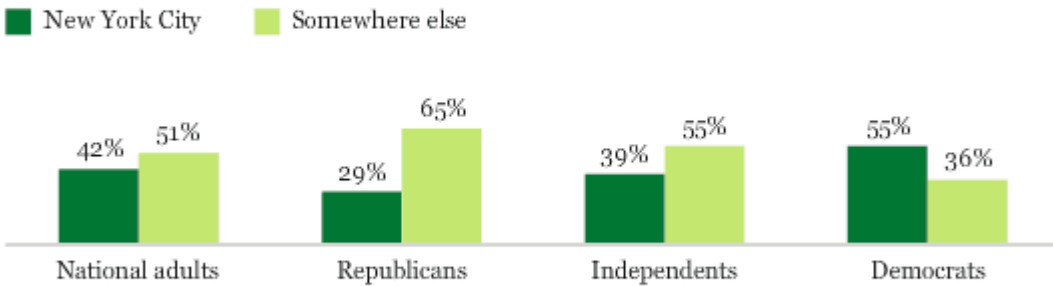
These findings come from a Nov. 20-22 *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted a week after U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced that Mohammed's case would move from a military tribunal in Guantanamo Bay, where the admitted terrorist was originally charged, to a federal court in New York City.

"Despite their sharp differences over how to bring Mohammed to justice, Republicans and Democrats largely agree that, if found guilty, he should pay the ultimate price."

Public opinion is a bit less contrary to Holder's decision regarding the venue for the trial. Although the majority of Americans (51%) say Mohammed should face trial somewhere other than New York City, 42% -- slightly higher than the percentage favoring a civilian trial -- support holding the trial in the city where the vast majority of Americans lost their lives on Sept. 11.

Preferred Venue for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed Trial

As you may know, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has described himself as the mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. He is scheduled to face trial in New York City. Just your opinion, do you think it would be better to have his trial in New York City or better to have it somewhere else?

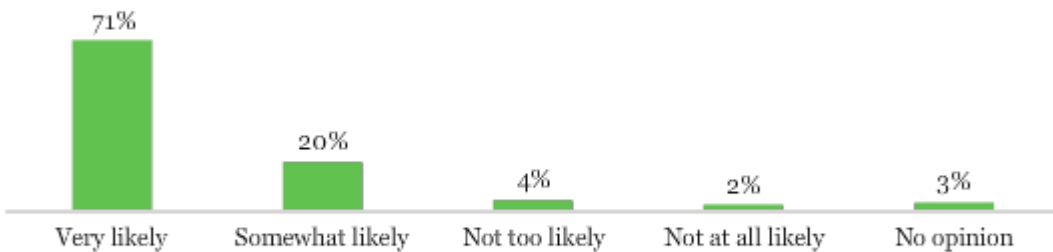


USA Today/Gallup, Nov. 20-22, 2009

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The legal framework of Mohammed's case has clearly shifted along with the new jurisdiction, as he will now be granted certain constitutional rights and protections that would not have been afforded him in a military tribunal. Nevertheless, 7 in 10 Americans -- including a high proportion of all party groups -- believe it is very likely Mohammed will be found guilty. Only 6% think a guilty verdict is unlikely.

How likely do you think it is that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed will be found guilty -- very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?



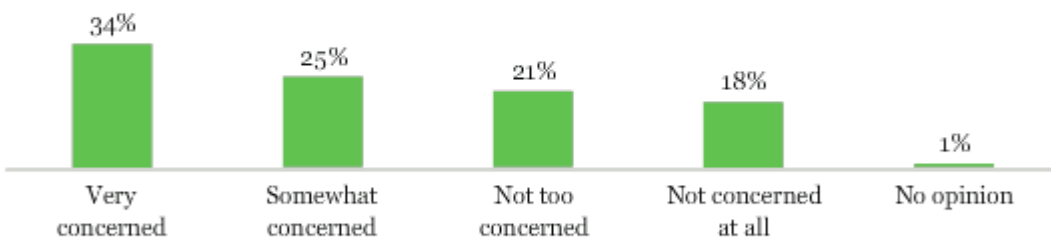
USA Today/Gallup, Nov. 20-22, 2009

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The possibility that the federal trial would give Mohammed and the four others to be tried in New York a platform for airing their political views was raised last week, after a lawyer for one of the accused announced that the five defendants intend to plead not guilty for the express purpose of being able to "get their message out" in the trial.

Overall, 59% of Americans are at least somewhat concerned that a trial will give Mohammed such an opportunity; however, significantly fewer -- 34% -- are "very concerned." Among partisans, most of the differentiation in views on this question is seen in the percentages very concerned, ranging from 50% of Republicans to 34% of independents and 21% of Democrats.

How concerned are you that a trial will give Khalid Sheikh Mohammed publicity to further his cause -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all?



USA Today/Gallup, Nov. 20-22, 2009

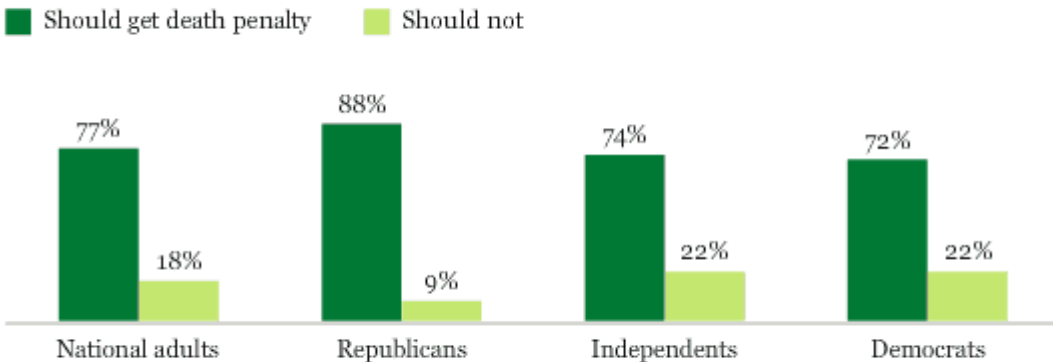
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Little Disagreement Over Pursuing Death Penalty

Holder announced last week that the Justice Department will seek the death penalty for Mohammed and four other men accused of plotting 9/11, and Americans broadly agree with this. Three-quarters (77%) say Mohammed should get the death penalty if he is found guilty, slightly higher than the percentage telling Gallup in October (65%) that they favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder, in general.

Despite their sharp differences over how to bring Mohammed to justice, Republicans and Democrats largely agree that, if found guilty, he should pay the ultimate price.

If Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is found guilty, do you think he should or should not get the death penalty?



USA Today/Gallup, Nov. 20-22, 2009

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Two weeks after Attorney General Holder announced his decision to try the five leading 9/11 terrorism suspects in federal court in New York City, controversy about those decisions abounds.

A slight majority of Americans disagree with Holder's decision to hold the Mohammed trial in New York (51% say it should be held elsewhere) and a larger proportion disagree with his decision to move the case to a civilian court (59% would prefer to have it held in a military court). Democrats are generally supportive of the Obama administration's changes in these respects, while Republicans and independents take opposing views. At the same time, relatively few Americans (particularly Democrats and independents) are very concerned that the trial will give Mohammed a publicity platform, and most Americans are confident he will be found guilty.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,017 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Nov. 20-22, 2009. 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 land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

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

Steady Approval Numbers for Obama in U.S.

November 27, 2009

A majority of Americans are satisfied with the way Barack Obama is handling his job, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents approve of their president's performance.

In American elections, candidates require 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the White House. In November 2008, Democratic nominee Obama secured a majority of electoral votes, defeating McCain. In January, Obama became the first African American president in U.S. history.

On Nov. 16 during a visit to China, Obama discussed the issue of censorship, declaring, "I think that the more freely information flows, the stronger the society becomes, because then citizens of countries around the world can hold their own governments accountable. They can begin to think for themselves."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?

	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009
Approve	51%	51%	52%
Disapprove	42%	44%	41%
Not sure	7%	5%	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,003 American adults, conducted on Nov. 17 and Nov. 18, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Americans Want Death Penalty for 9/11 Planners

November 25, 2009

A large majority of people in the United States think that, if five men accused of participating in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, are found guilty by a federal court, they should be sentenced to death, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 69 per cent of respondents share this opinion.

Al-Qaeda operatives hijacked and crashed four airplanes on U.S. soil on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people.

Current U.S. president Barack Obama has vowed to close the U.S. detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where about 400 "enemy combatants", including some people accused of playing a role in the 9/11 attacks, have been detained since 2002.

On Oct. 20, the U.S. Senate voted 79-19 to allow the 223 prisoners currently held at the Guantanamo Bay detention center to be brought to the U.S. to face civilian or military trials.

On Nov. 13, U.S. attorney general Eric H. Holder Jr. announced that five Guantanamo prisoners accused of participating in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, including alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, will face trial in a federal courtroom based in New York City.

Holder declared: "Today's announcement marks a significant step forward in our efforts to close Guantanamo and to bring to justice those individuals who have conspired to attack our nation and our interests abroad."

On Nov. 19, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani disagreed with Holder's decision, declaring, "The reality is that [the alleged conspirators] could be tried in a military tribunal. There is no reason to try them in a civilian court. Others are going to be tried in the military tribunal. And the reality is we've never done this before. And this is something that was pushed very, very hard by the left wing for President Obama to do and he's been criticized for delaying in doing it."

Polling Data

If the five people accused of involvement in the 9/11 terrorist attacks are found guilty, which of these options would you prefer?

Death penalty	69%
Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole	22%
Not sure	9%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,006 American adults, conducted on Nov. 17 and Nov. 18, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Americans Want Executive Salary Caps

November 22, 2009

A large majority of people in the United States would like to see the salaries of top executives capped, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents strongly support this idea, and 31 per cent back it moderately.

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

Throughout the recession, the issue of high executive pay and bonuses has become a hot topic, as taxpayers' money has been used to bail out several major banks, auto-makers, and insurance companies.

In American elections, candidates require 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the White House. In November 2008, Democratic nominee Barack Obama secured a majority of electoral

votes, defeating Republican John McCain. In January, Obama became the first African American president in U.S. history.

The federal government is currently in ownership position of seven companies, including insurer AIG and Bank of America. On Oct. 28, federal "pay czar" Kenneth Feinberg—an appointee of the U.S. Treasury Department—appeared before Congress to discuss whether he should impose a salary cap on executives working in the seven companies.

Democratic New York congressman Edolphus Towns said he supports the caps, adding, "Wall Street can no longer be trusted to control itself (...) No doubt there is howling in the executive suites, but I don't think the taxpayers are going to be shedding any tears over this."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose salary caps on executives?

Strongly support	47%
Moderately support	31%
Moderately oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 American adults, conducted on Oct. 28 and Oct. 29, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Canadians Reject Status Quo on Prostitution

November 28, 2009

People in Canada believe the country's laws on prostitution should be modified, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion published in *Maclean's*. 50 per cent of respondents would prefer to decriminalize some of the actions surrounding prostitution that are currently illegal and allowing adults to engage in consensual prostitution.

Conversely, 25 per cent of respondents would prohibit prostitution entirely, and make it illegal to exchange sex for money. Only 16 per cent of respondents would keep the status quo, which criminalizes some of the activities surrounding prostitution.

Under current regulations, exchanging sex for money in Canada is legal. However, the Criminal Code makes many activities surrounding prostitution illegal, including the public communication for the purposes of prostitution, and owning, running, occupying or transporting anyone to a bawdy house (or brothel).

Last month, three Ontario sex workers launched a legal challenge to the country's prostitution laws, claiming that current regulations "violate their constitutional rights and threaten their physical safety." The Ontario Superior Court of Justice has not issued a decision. A similar case is expected to be heard in British Columbia in January 2010.

Polling Data

Generally speaking, which of these policy options would you personally prefer to deal with the issue of prostitution in Canada?

Decriminalizing some of the actions surrounding prostitution that are currently illegal and allowing adults to engage in consensual prostitution	50%
Prohibiting prostitution entirely, and making it illegal to exchange sex for money	25%
Keeping the status quo, which criminalizes some of the activities surrounding prostitution	16%
Not sure	8%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion / Maclean's

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,006 Canadian adults, conducted on Oct. 8 and Oct. 9, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Canadians Have Low Expectations on Copenhagen

November 27, 2009

Few Canadians believe that the upcoming Climate Change Summit in Denmark will lead to a comprehensive global accord, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. While 58 per cent of respondents would like to see a legally binding agreement that sets specific targets for all signatories, only five per cent believe this will actually happen.

In addition, 43 per cent of respondents expect no agreement to come out of Copenhagen, and 38 per cent foresee a political compromise to meet certain milestones on a voluntary basis.

The term global warming refers to an increase of the Earth's average temperature. Some theories say that climate change might be the result of human-generated carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. In 2007, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report which states that global warming has been "very likely"—or 90 per cent certain—caused by humans burning fossil fuels.

In 1998, several countries agreed to the Kyoto Protocol, a proposed amendment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The agreement commits nations to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

The Copenhagen Climate Change Summit is scheduled to take place from Dec. 7 to Dec. 18. Countries attending the summit are supposed to draft a new agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which is due to expire in 2012.

Yesterday, Canadian environment minister Jim Prentice discussed his views on the summit, "If the U.S. does not make a substantial effort going forward, there is nothing Canada can do and our own mitigation efforts will be futile. If we do more than the U.S., we will suffer economic pain for no real environmental gain—pain that, especially during challenging economic times, could impede our ability to invest in new clean technologies. But if we do less, we will risk facing new border barriers into the American market."

Polling Data

As you may know, representatives from 170 countries will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, next month to participate in a Climate Summit organized by the United Nations. Which of these scenarios would you prefer to see when the Climate Summit is over?

A legally binding agreement that sets specific targets for all signatories	58%
A political compromise to meet certain milestones on a voluntary basis	20%
No agreement—countries dealing with climate change independently of each other	12%
Not sure	11%

And which of these scenarios do you expect will actually happen when the Climate Summit is over?

A legally binding agreement that sets specific targets for all signatories	5%
A political compromise to meet certain milestones on a voluntary basis	38%
No agreement—countries dealing with climate change independently of each other	43%
Not sure	14%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 Canadian adults, conducted on Nov. 24 and Nov. 25, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Canadians More Satisfied with Government on H1N1

November 26, 2009

People in Canada are now less critical of the government's handling of the H1N1 pandemic, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 45 per cent of respondents are content with the federal government's preparedness for the Swine Flu outbreak, up 13 points since early November.

Additionally, 44 per cent of Canadians are satisfied with the performance of their provincial government regarding the flu pandemic, up eight points since early November.

In April, Mexico was greatly affected by an outbreak of H1N1 influenza, also referred to as Swine Flu. In early June, as the virus spread throughout the globe, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified the outbreak as a pandemic, while also noting that most illnesses reported were of "moderate severity."

So far, at least 250 people have died in Canada as a result of the H1N1 outbreak.

On Nov. 23, drug-maker GlaxoSmithKline, which is the sole provider of the Swine Flu vaccine in Canada, said it has advised Canadian doctors to put on hold a batch of 17,000 doses due to reports of severe side effects. Company spokeswoman Gwenan White explained that "one batch

has seen a slightly increased rate of anaphylaxis," a life-threatening allergic reaction, and assured that the company is investigating the reports.

Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the level of preparedness for Swine Flu (H1N1) for each of the following? - "Very Satisfied" and "Moderately Satisfied" responses

	Nov. 20	Nov. 5	Oct. 26
Your provincial government	44%	36%	56%
The federal government	45%	32%	55%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 Canadian adults, conducted on Nov. 19 and Nov. 20, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Where the Public Stands on Immigration Reform

November 23, 2009

Recently the Obama administration announced that it will push for legislation next year to overhaul the nation's immigration system. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that the administration will argue for what she called a "three-legged stool" including stricter enforcement, a "tough and fair pathway to earned legal status" for undocumented immigrants already in the U.S., and a more efficient process for legal immigration.

How is the public likely to react to this new push? Since 2007 when the Bush administration failed in its effort to build a coalition in support of comprehensive reform, the issue has been relatively dormant. Pew Research polling has found significant public support for both tougher enforcement and the so-called "path to citizenship," but several factors suggest that the debate could be a difficult one.

First, if the experience of 2007 is any guide, opposition to setting up a process for undocumented immigrants to achieve citizenship may be more intense -- even if less widespread -- than support for it. Second, the nation's economic situation is significantly worse than it was when the issue was debated in 2006 and 2007. Some Republican lawmakers reacted to Secretary Napolitano's speech by raising concerns about the competition for jobs posed by foreign-born workers. More generally, partisan differences on the issue have grown since two years ago, potentially making it more difficult to achieve a consensus in Congress. And third, as the debate over health care reform has shown, there is considerable public anxiety right now about the scope of the federal government's activities and its capacity to undertake major policy changes.

How Important is Immigration Reform to the Public?

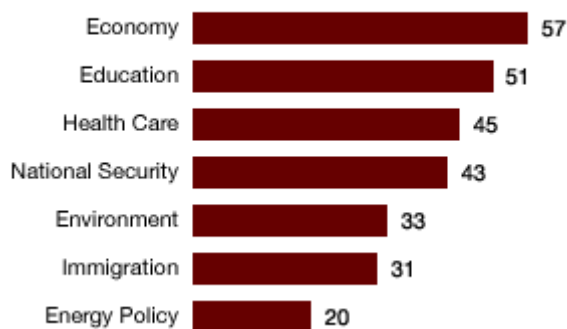
Immigration has been a low- to mid-tier issue with the U.S. public for the past three years. In January this year, just 41% said that dealing with illegal immigration should be a "top priority" for the new president and Congress to deal with, down 10 points from January 2008 and 14 points from 2007, when Congress was considering legislation on the issue. Even among Republicans, who placed more significance on the issue than did Democrats, illegal immigration was not among their most important priorities.

Voter Priorities in 2008		
<u>McCain Voters</u>	<u>Obama Voters</u>	<u>Swing Voters</u>
85 Economy	94 Economy	94 Economy
81 Taxes	88 Health care	85 Jobs
79 Terrorism	84 Jobs	79 Health care
76 Energy	82 Education	79 Education
72 Iraq	79 Energy	77 Energy
72 Jobs	73 Iraq	73 Taxes
62 Immigration	69 Environment	70 Terrorism
60 Health care	63 Taxes	68 Iraq
59 Education	59 Terrorism	60 Environment
49 Trade policy	51 Trade policy	40 Immigration
48 Abortion	39 Immigration	47 Trade policy
41 Gay marriage	38 Abortion	39 Abortion
36 Environment	22 Gay marriage	20 Gay marriage
N=454	549	297
Percent rating each issue as very important to their vote. Oct. 16-19, 2008		
Based on registered voters.		

Immigration also was not a key issue in the presidential election, other than for a brief period during the campaign for the Republican Party's nomination. Pew Research polling during fall 2008 found just 49% saying that immigration was a "very important" issue in their vote -- 11th on a list of 13 issues probed. By comparison 91% said the economy was very important, 80% said jobs, 78% said energy and 77% said this for health care.

Hispanics' Priorities for the New Administration

% saying issue is "extremely important"



Immigration was a low priority in the election not only for the public as a whole but for Latinos as well. Both before and after the election, Latinos surveyed by the Pew Hispanic Center rated immigration as significantly less important than issues such as jobs and education. In December, just 31% said it was an "extremely important" issue for the new president to deal with.

One reason for the relatively low profile of the immigration issue may be the very high profile of other issues, most notably the economy and health care reform, not to mention the war in Afghanistan. But the potential power of the issue was in evidence on Sept. 9 when Rep. Joe Wilson shouted "You lie" at President Obama during his address on health care; that shout was in response to the president's statement that: "There are also those who claim that our reform efforts would insure illegal immigrants. This, too, is false."

Another reason for the low profile of the immigration issue could be that the flow of immigrants into the U.S. has slowed. According to Pew Hispanic Center analyses, migration from Mexico has dropped substantially over the past three years. At the same time, there is no clear evidence that migration out of the U.S. and into Mexico has risen during this time. And, of course, Mexico is not the only source of immigration into the U.S. So there are still many unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. -- approximately 11.9 million in 2009, according to the Pew Hispanic Center's senior demographer, Jeffrey Passel.

The Contours of Opinion

Path to Citizenship vs. "Amnesty"				
<i>Providing a way for citizenship...*</i>	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
	%	%	%	%
Favor	62	64	64	63
Oppose	33	28	31	30
Don't know	5	8	5	7
	100	100	100	100
<i>Providing amnesty to illegal immigrants...*</i>	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
	%	%	%	%
Favor	47	60	56	54
Oppose	48	35	38	39
Don't know	5	5	6	7
	100	100	100	100
* "if they pass background checks, pay fines and have jobs." Half of respondents asked about "providing amnesty;" half about "providing a way... to gain legal citizenship."				
"Mixed Views on Immigration Bill," June 7, 2007.				

When Congress and the president abandoned efforts to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2007, public opinion was quite conflicted. A Pew Research poll found that, among those aware of the legislation, more people opposed (41%) than supported (33%) the bill being considered by the Senate, but a solid majority of 63% of the general public supported the bill's main objective to provide a "path to citizenship" for undocumented immigrants. At the time,

support for this principle was bipartisan, with nearly as many Republicans as Democrats favoring it. And even when the provision was described as "amnesty," a majority still supported it -- though by a smaller margin of 54%-39%. Republicans were evenly divided on the question when the policy was described as "amnesty."

<i>Favor way for illegal immigr to gain citizenship*...</i>	Dec 2007	April 2009	Change
Total	58	63	+5
18-29	75	71	-4
30-49	51	67	+16
50-64	58	62	+4
65+	53	48	-5
College grad	65	75	+10
Some college	61	65	+4
HS or less	52	56	+4
Republican	56	50	-6
Democrat	62	73	+11
Independent	58	61	+3

* Favor providing a way for illegal immigrants currently in the country to gain legal citizenship if they pass background checks, pay fines and have jobs.

Pew Research has asked about the path to citizenship three times since 2007, most recently in April of this year when 63% again said they favored providing a way for illegal immigrants currently in the country to gain legal citizenship if they pass background checks, pay fines and have jobs. Unlike in 2007, there is now a substantial partisan gap, with 73% of Democrats but just 50% of Republicans in favor of the path to citizenship.

While favoring a change that would make it possible for many undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S., the public has also generally favored stronger efforts to enforce existing immigration laws. Majorities favor increasing penalties on businesses that hire undocumented workers, beefing up border security, and allowing states to check immigration status before issuing driver's licenses.

Underlying the public's attitudes about specific reform proposals is a set of contradictory and conflicted perceptions and attitudes about immigrants. Numerous polls over the past several years have found that the public generally respects immigrants for their strong work ethic, good family values and for the cultural contributions they make to American society. But at the same time, pluralities or majorities believe that illegal immigrants weaken the economy by using public services, failing to pay their fair share of taxes, not making enough of an effort to assimilate and, according to some surveys, contributing to the threat of terrorism and the crime problem. And, more generally, large majorities of the public continue to favor limiting the number of immigrants entering the country (73% in April of this year).

Yet, the public's appetite for enforcement-based solutions is not unlimited. Though most favor increasing border security, the public has been divided over the building of a security fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. Relatively few people say that deportation of illegal immigrants should have a high priority when asked to choose among different options for dealing with the issue. Indeed, just 13% of respondents in a June 2007 poll by NBC News and the *Wall Street Journal* said that deporting all illegal immigrants is a realistic and achievable goal.

The Prospects for Reform

Illegal Immigrants & Jobs	
<i>Biggest concern about immigration...*</i>	<u>Total</u> %
Hurts American jobs	34
Hurts customs/way of life	10
Danger of terrorism	20
Contributes to crime	14
<i>Do illegal immigrants...**</i>	
Take jobs away	30
Take unwanted jobs	59
Both	9
* "Mixed Views on Immigration Bill," June 7, 2007	
** CBS News/New York Times Poll, May 18-23, 2007	

President Obama campaigned on a platform that included a commitment to immigration reform in his first term. Whether or not he can build public support in pursuit of that goal depends on several factors that are difficult to forecast. The first is whether the sluggish economy and high unemployment will increase opposition to a policy that eventually leads to legal residence for millions of workers currently in the U.S. illegally. Anxiety about the job competition immigrants pose to American workers was important during the debate in 2006-2007, but polling during that period found significant majorities saying that immigrants generally take jobs American workers don't want, rather than taking jobs away from Americans (59%-30%, in a May 2007 CBS News/*New York Times* poll). How much that view has changed today will affect how well the Democratic Party, in particular, can hold together a coalition in support of reform.

A second unknown is how willing Republican Party leaders will be to support a cross-party coalition in the Congress. Both John McCain and Mitt Romney encountered criticism from conservatives within the GOP during their run for the Republican nomination for president. And, of course, President Bush was unable to unify his party around a comprehensive immigration measure in 2007, despite having made it a priority for his second term. Arguably, conservatives hold more sway within the party now than a few years ago. As noted earlier, public opinion on the issue has become more partisan over this period, with Democrats expressing greater support for reform than Republicans.

Finally, there is the role of Hispanics and Latinos themselves. In 2004, Hispanics gave President Bush 40% of their votes, and Republicans were optimistic that the party could make inroads into this growing constituency. But over the next few years, Latinos shifted in a Democratic direction and gave Barack Obama 67% of their votes (to 31% for McCain). Many observers argued that the tone of the debate over immigration hurt the Republican Party in the eyes of Latinos, and many within the party worry that another heated immigration battle could further damage the party with this important group of voters.

LATIN AMERICA

Peruvians Continue to Distrust García's Leadership

November 25, 2009

Two thirds of people in Peru express discontent with the leadership of Alan García, according to a poll by Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado published in *El Comercio*. 66 per cent of respondents disapprove of the president's performance, down one point since October.

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

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

On Jun. 30 Simón acknowledge his failure in handling an indigenous uprising in the Amazon region in reaction to new government mining and resource-exploitation laws, and tendered his resignation. Simón was replaced by Congress president Javier Velásquez in a new cabinet shuffle.

Throughout his term, García has focused on pursuing trade agreements with several countries. On Nov. 23, García met in Lima with Jia Qinglin, president of China's People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and invited China to invest in Peru's auto, banking and port industries. The García said that Peru wants to be the "focal point" for China's economic relationship with Latin America.

Polling Data

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

	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009
Approve	26%	26%	28%
Disapprove	66%	67%	67%

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

Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 Peruvian adults, conducted from Nov. 11 to Nov. 13, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Bolivians Call for Debate Before Election

November 25, 2009

Most people in Bolivia want candidates running for the presidency to engage in a public meeting before an election takes place next month, according to a poll by Equipos Mori. 73.8 per cent of respondents support holding a debate featuring the presidential candidates.

In 2005, Evo Morales—an indigenous leader and former coca-leaf farmer—won the December 2005 presidential election as the candidate for the Movement to Socialism (MAS), with 53.7 per cent of the vote. He was officially sworn in as Bolivia’s first indigenous head of state in January 2006.

Morales’s tenure has been focused on "re-founding" Bolivia through a new constitution. The new document was ratified last January.

The revamped constitution includes a bill of rights and an entire chapter dedicated to Bolivia’s 36 indigenous nations. It also put the economy in the hands of the state, limited landholdings, redistributed revenues from gas fields in the eastern lowlands to the country’s poorer areas, and included a compromise that will allow the current president to seek only one additional five-year term.

Under the terms of the new body of law, a general election has been scheduled for Dec. 6. Morales is seeking re-election.

On Nov. 18, MAS’ spokesman Jorge Silva ratified Morales’s decision not to participate in any public debates with other candidates before the election, saying that this "is unnecessary" because "the large majority [of people] will still bet for the process of change" proposed by MAS.

Polling Data

Do you think a debate with the presidential candidates should take place before the election?

Yes	73.8%
No	21.1%

Source: Equipos MORI

Methodology: Interviews with 1,007 Bolivian adults, conducted Oct. 31 to Nov. 8, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Colombians and Venezuelans at Odds on Leadership

Disapproval of other country’s leadership along the Chavez divide

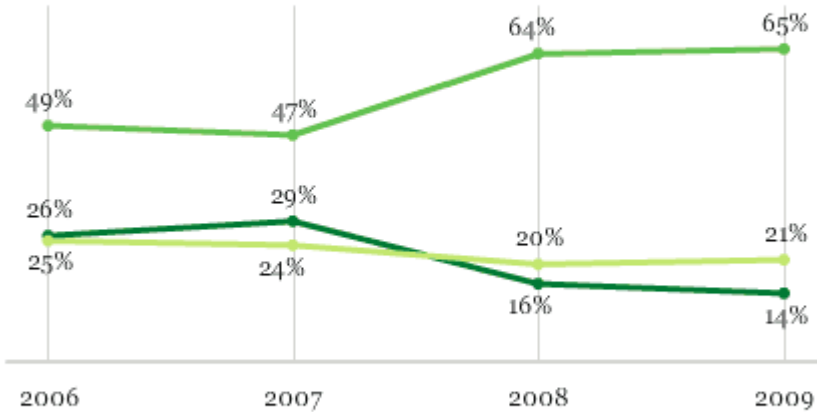
November 24, 2009

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez recently announced the country should "prepare for war" against Colombia, a sign of how relations between the two nations continue to deteriorate. A Gallup survey finds that 14% of Colombians approved of Venezuela's leadership in August 2009, which is similar to the 16% measured last year, but down from 29% in July 2007.

Colombians' Approval of Venezuela's Leadership

Do you approve or disapprove of the leadership of Venezuela?

■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ Don't know/Refused



Asked of Colombian adults

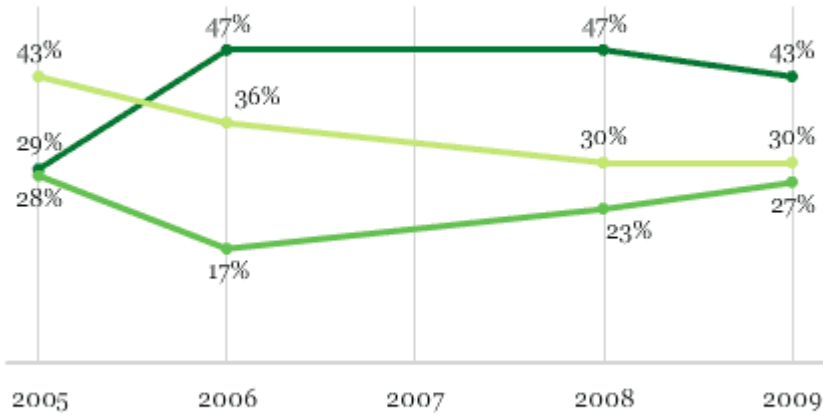
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Across the border, Venezuelans' approval of Colombia's leadership remained fairly steady as it has over the past three years, at 43%.

Venezuelans' Approval of Colombia's Leadership

Do you approve or disapprove of the leadership of Colombia?

■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ Don't know/Refused



Asked of Venezuelan adults

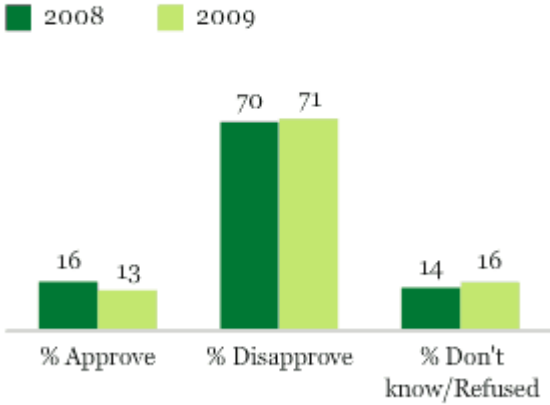
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Chavez's directive to prepare for war -- seen as rhetorical until Venezuela destroyed two footbridges along the border -- came in response to Colombia's signed agreement to allow the United States access to up to seven of its military bases. Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe has stated that the agreement is meant to combat drug traffickers and guerillas; Chavez claims it is an attack on his country's sovereignty.

Gallup also surveyed in both nations on respondents' attitudes toward Presidents Chavez and Uribe. Over the past two years, more Venezuelans approved of Uribe than Colombians approved of Chavez. However, the percentage of Venezuelan respondents who did not express an opinion about Uribe is higher than the percentage of Colombians who did not have an opinion about Chavez, indicating Chavez's likely more substantial notoriety across the region.

*Colombians' Views of Venezuelan
President Hugo Chavez*

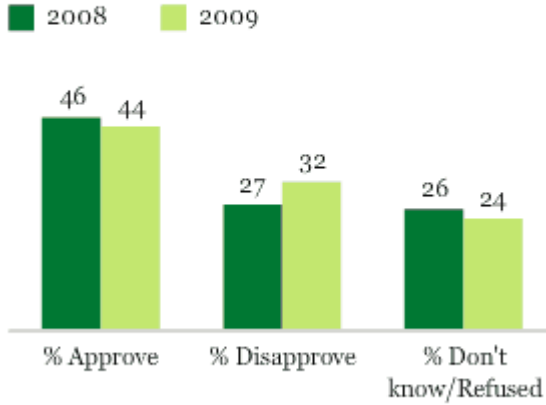
Asked of Colombian adults



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*Venezuelans' Views of Colombian
President Alvaro Uribe*

Asked of Venezuelan adults



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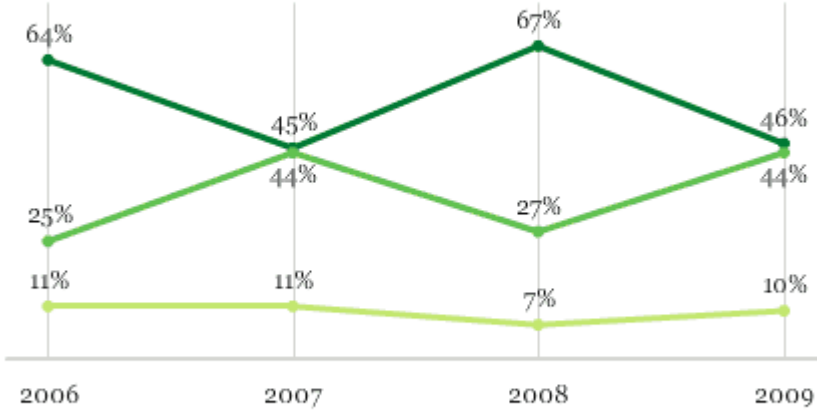
A History of Tension

Chavez's directive to prepare for war is the most recent episode in Chavez-Urbe saga, which last came to a head in late 2007, when the two leaders clashed over how to negotiate with rebel guerilla forces in Colombia. Following that incident, Colombians' approval of Venezuela's leadership dropped from 29% in July 2007 to 16% in August 2008, while disapproval jumped from 47% to 64%. Over the same period, Colombians' approval of their own leadership rose from 45% to 67%, with disapproval falling from 44% to 27%.

Colombians' Approval of Their Country's Leadership

Do you approve or disapprove of the leadership of this country?

■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ Don't know/Refused



Asked of Colombian adults

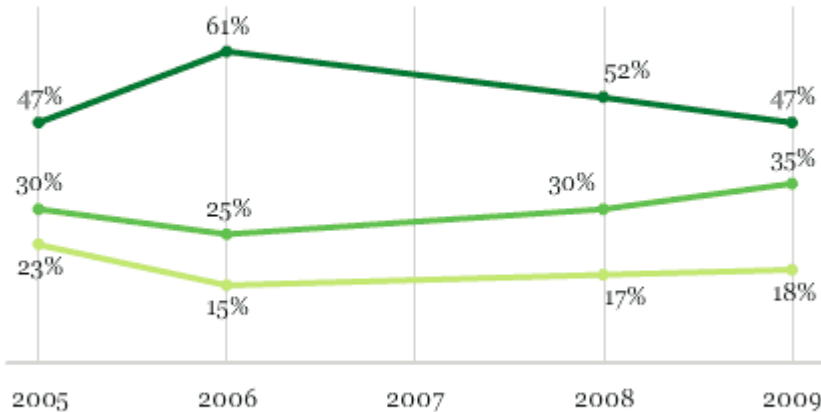
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Gallup did not survey in Venezuela in 2007, but surveys between 2006 and 2008 do show that Venezuelans' approval of Colombia's leadership remained steady at 47%, which is more than double the proportion of Colombians who approved of Venezuela's leadership in the same period. Venezuelans' approval of their own leadership fell slightly between 2006 and 2008, from 61% to 52%.

Venezuelans' Approval of Their Country's Leadership

Do you approve or disapprove of the leadership of this country?

■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ Don't know/Refused



Asked of Venezuelan adults

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The Chavez Divide

Disputes over insurgents and drug trafficking underscore the political divide between the leftist Chavez and the conservative Uribe. Gallup surveyed respondents in both nations on their views of socialism and capitalism. Colombians who approve of Venezuela's leadership are more likely to say they are more socialist than capitalist, showing that Chavez is a polarizing political figure even outside Venezuela.

Bottom Line

How Colombians and Venezuelans view each other's leadership may give early insights into the political future of each government, particularly in light of escalating tensions between the two countries. For Chavez, approval percentages are steadily down in Colombia and at home. Elsa Cardoso, a professor of international relations at the Central University of Venezuela, claims the current rhetoric against Colombia is merely a smokescreen to distract attention from Venezuela's rapidly deteriorating economy. Meanwhile, the majority of Colombian respondents approve of Colombia's leadership, as do more than 4 in 10 Venezuelans. Each government's handling of their bilateral relationship -- and the heavy trade ties that depend on it -- may well have an important effect on the region's ongoing ideological divide between those with pro-Chavez and anti-Chavez allegiances.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in June 2006, July 2007, June 25-Aug. 29, 2008, and July 14-Aug. 1, 2009, in Colombia. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 3.3 percentage points to a high of ± 3.7 percentage points.

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in November 2005, December 2006, Aug. 3-Sept. 29, 2008, and July 22-Aug. 12, 2009, in Venezuela. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 3.2 percentage points to a high of ± 4.0 percentage points.

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

AUSTRALASIA

Australians Convinced of Man-Made Climate Change

November 22, 2009

The majority of Australians think climate change is a reality and a consequence of human activity, according to a poll by Essential Research. 53 per cent of respondents share this opinion, while 34 per cent say the phenomenon is a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate.

The term global warming refers to an increase of the Earth's average temperature. Some theories say that climate change might be the result of human-generated carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. In 2007, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report which states that global warming has been "very likely"—or 90 per cent certain—caused by humans burning fossil fuels.

In 1998, several countries agreed to the Kyoto Protocol, a proposed amendment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The agreement commits nations to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Australia held a federal election in November 2007. Final results gave the Australian Labor Party (ALP) 85 seats in the 150-member House of Representatives. ALP leader Kevin Rudd was officially sworn in as prime minister in December, bringing an end to the 11-year tenure of Liberal leader John Howard as head of Australia's government.

Rudd signed the Kyoto Protocol immediately after being sworn in, delivering on one of his electoral promises. In March 2008, the Kyoto Protocol came into effect. In July, the Rudd government introduced its Green Paper, a proposal to curb carbon emissions.

In September 2008, after reviewing the Green Paper, the government said it will implement a "Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme." The plan will include a carbon emissions trading system that will help reduce pollution "in a responsible and flexible manner and at the lowest possible cost" by giving businesses a permit to release up to a certain amount of greenhouse gas

emissions. The mechanism will apply to stationary energy, transport, fugitive emissions, industrial processes, and the waste and forestry sectors.

On Nov. 16, the bill with the trading scheme proposal was approved by the lower house of the legislature. The government expects the upper house to deliver a vote on the bill by the end of this month.

At this point, the trading scheme bill needs the support of at least seven lawmakers from the opposition coalition of Liberals and National to pass in the Australian Senate.

On Nov. 17, Rudd declared: "We have three days left this week, one is now gone, we have four days left next week to debate what is arguably one of the most important pieces of legislation for the nation and the economy for the year ahead."

Polling Data

Do you agree that there is fairly conclusive evidence that climate change is happening and caused by human activity or do you believe that the evidence is still not in and we may just be witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate which happens from time to time?

Climate change is happening and is caused by human activity	53%
We are just witnessing a normal fluctuation in the earth's climate	34%
Don't know	13%

Source: Essential Research

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,122 Australian adults, conducted from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1, 2009. No margin of error was provided.
