

BUSINESS & POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

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Prelude

This week report consists of 24 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys while the rest are national surveys. Various significant issues have been raised in the polls. These include issues of global significance and local concerns of several nations across the globe.

While the political scientists continue to ponder over the issues of global governance and at various levels world leaders are practically taking some steps in this regard, the publics around the world seem to be very supportive of cooperation among the nations to achieve mutual goals. With all the awareness and modern values should citizens in the developed countries not be on top of the list of people who are supportive of cooperation among the countries? But it is not the case. Recent polling by worldpublicopinion.org shows that it is the Muslim countries like Turkey, Egypt and Nigeria who are overwhelmingly supportive of the idea. Then is it not surprising that we always find criticism against Muslims as not cooperative. Does it also not show the desire of the Muslims to live peacefully with other nations and help resolve all the issues with mutual cooperation?

Pollsters have been continuously monitoring the public sentiments & concerns about climate change. Surprisingly again the concern in the American public has declined about climate change. This means that American President does not have any home pressure to pursue active policy on the environmental issues. It is quite interesting to explore how the concerns about climate change declined in U.S. but for the world publics Americans sentiment become a puzzle to unearth their understanding of these issues. It may also show that Americans have taken a myopic approach on this global concern. Will they remain unmoved unless it becomes a direct threat to them? Will President Obama follow this issue at international forums vigorously while climate change concerns are low at home?

Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Netanyahu Sought to Appease Obama, Say Israelis

Most people in Israel believe Benjamin Netanyahu broke an election promise by ordering the freeze of settlement construction in occupied territories, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot released by IMRA. 51 per cent of respondent agree with the notion that the Israeli prime minister failed to keep his promise of allowing the growth of Jewish settlements.

December 14, 2009

EAST ASIA

Filipinos Unaware of Automated Election System

Most people in the Philippines claim to know very little or nothing at all about a program to automate voting in the next election, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 61 per cent of respondents are unaware of the Automated Election System (AES).

December 12, 2009

Taiwanese Grow Frustrated with President Ma

Three out of every five people in Taiwan are disappointed with the performance of Ma Ying-jeou, according to a poll by Global Views. 61 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with their president, up 2.4 points since October.

December 13, 2009

JAPAN & KOREA

Support for Japanese Cabinet Quickly Slipping

The appointed cabinet of Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama is losing public backing, according to a poll by *Yomiuri*. 59 per cent of respondents approve of the government's performance, down four points since November.

December 10, 2009

AFRICA

South Africans Fear World Cup Terror Attack

Most people in South Africa are concerned about the possibility of their country being the target of a terrorist attack when it hosts the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, according to a poll by TNS Research Surveys. 51 per cent of respondents share this concern.

December 12, 2009

EAST EUROPE

Global Economic Crisis Is Personal for Russians

Gallup's survey, conducted in April through June, shows Russians' confidence in their nation's economy faltered as it entered recession this year accompanied by unemployment and inflation. Reflecting on their own communities and themselves, Russians' optimism about the local job market, their personal standard of living, and the local economy -- three of four items that make up the index -- withered to less than half of last year's levels.

December 11, 2009

WEST EUROPE

Britons Remain Opposed to Afghanistan Mission

Public support for the military operation in Afghanistan remains low in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 56 per cent of respondents oppose the mission, and 56 per cent reject a plan to deploy an additional 500 soldiers in the next few weeks.

December 09, 2009

Germans Mount Pressure on Afghan Withdrawal

The proportion of people in Germany wanting a full withdrawal of troops serving in Afghanistan has significantly increased, according to a poll by Infratest-Dimap released by ARD. 69 per cent of respondents support bringing all the troops back from Afghanistan, up 12 points since September.

December 06, 2009

EU Company Forecasts Vary Widely

In July 2009, across the European Union, nearly half of managers surveyed predicted growth for their companies in the next 2 to 3 years and about 3 in 10 thought their annual revenue would remain the same. More than one in six EU company managers said they expected their annual income to decrease in that time frame.

December 9, 2009

NORTH AMERICA

After Brief Uptick, Obama Approval Slips to 47%

Barack Obama's presidential job approval rating is 47% in the latest Gallup Poll Daily tracking update, a new low for his administration to date. His approval rating has been below 50% for much of the time since mid-November, but briefly rose to 52% last week after he announced his new Afghanistan policy.

December 7, 2009

Most People Know the Dollar Is Weak and Believe This Is Bad for the Economy, Consumers, the Reputation and Influence of the U.S. and for Exports

A new Harris Poll finds that most adults are aware that the dollar has become weaker against most other major currencies over the last few years, and they think that is a bad thing. Substantial majorities believe that a weak dollar is bad for consumers, and for the reputation and influence of the United States.

December 06, 2009

Big Drop in Those Who Believe That Global Warming Is Coming

A new Harris Poll finds that those who believe that the release of carbon dioxide and other gases will lead to global warming has dropped from 71% two years ago to only 51% now. While many people are not sure, those who do not believe that carbon dioxide emissions will cause global warming have increased from 23% to 29% since 2007.

December 07, 2009

More Americans Have Little or No Concern About Climate Change

A new Zogby Interactive survey shows nearly half of Americans -- 49% -- say they are only slightly or not at all concerned about climate change, while 35% are somewhat or highly concerned.

December 12, 2009

Religious Intensity Remains Powerful Predictor of Politics

Americans' religious intensity continues to be a major predictor of party identification. A new analysis of more than 29,000 interviews Gallup conducted in November finds that Republicans outnumber Democrats by 12 percentage points among Americans who are classified as highly religious, while Democrats outnumber Republicans by 30 points among those who are not religious.

December 11, 2009

Honesty and Ethics Poll Finds Congress' Image Tarnished

For the first time in Gallup's annual Honesty and Ethics of Professions poll, a majority of Americans -- 55% -- say the honesty and ethical standards of "members of Congress" are low or very low -- slightly worse than "senators," whose ethics are rated low by 49%. By contrast, 83% of Americans say nurses have either very high or high ethical standards, positioning them at the top of Gallup's 2009 ranking of various professions.

December 9, 2009

U.S. Clergy, Bankers See New Lows in Honesty/Ethics Ratings

The percentage of Americans rating the honesty and ethics rating of clergy as very high or high is down to 50% in 2009, the lowest percentage it has been in the 32 years Gallup has measured it.

December 9, 2009

Most Americans Support Legalizing Marijuana

Many adults in the United States are willing to legalize marijuana, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents support this notion, while 43 per cent are opposed.

December 10, 2009

Americans Ponder New National Tea Party

A third of adults in the United States appear satisfied with the proposal to establish a third political party, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 32 per cent of respondents think the National Tea Party would be a good thing for the country.

December 09, 2009

LATIN AMERICA

Dominicans Review Prospective Candidates

The majority of people in the Dominican Republic want Miguel Vargas Maldonado to represent the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) in the next presidential election, according to a poll by Gallup published in Hoy. 62 per cent of respondents say the PRD president should run for office in the 2012 ballot.

December 11, 2009

Mexicans Reject Re-election of Legislators

Most adults in Mexico believe the members of the Chamber of Deputies should not be eligible for re-election, according to a poll by *Reforma*. 68 per cent of respondents reject this possibility, while only 19 per cent would endorse it.

December 08, 2009

Nicaraguans Dread Potential Ortega Re-Election

Most people in Nicaragua think the re-election of Daniel Ortega would be a negative development in the country, according to a poll by CID-Gallup published in *La Prensa*. 58 per cent of respondents share this opinion, while 36 per cent say a new Ortega term would be positive.

December 07, 2009

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Poll Finds Most Publics Around the World Want Their Governments to Be More Cooperative

A WorldPublicOpinion.org poll of people in 21 nations around the world finds that publics in 14 of them think their governments should be more ready to cooperate with others to achieve mutual gains.

December 9, 2009

Climate Concerns Continue to Increase: Global Poll

Public concern about climate change is at its highest level since GlobeScan began international tracking in 1998, according to a new GlobeScan/BBC World Service poll conducted in 23 countries. Nearly two thirds of those polled now say climate change is a “very serious” problem. However, concern has fallen in China and the USA.

December 08, 2009

MIDDLE EAST

Netanyahu Sought to Appease Obama, Say Israelis

December 14, 2009

Most people in Israel believe Benjamin Netanyahu broke an election promise by ordering the freeze of settlement construction in occupied territories, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot released by IMRA. 51 per cent of respondent agree with the notion that the Israeli prime minister failed to keep his promise of allowing the growth of Jewish settlements.

Additionally, 68 per cent of respondents think Netanyahu ordered the settlement freeze in response to United States president Barack Obama's criticism of Israeli construction activity. Only 20 per cent think the decision reflects Netanyahu's true concern for peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

In February, Israeli voters renewed the Knesset. The Likud party, led by Netanyahu, secured 27 seats in the legislature. The far-right Israel Our Home, the Labour party, the International Organization of Torah-observant Sephardic Jews (Shas), United Torah Judaism, and the Jewish Home joined Likud in a coalition. In March, Netanyahu was sworn in as prime minister.

Netanyahu served as prime minister from June 1996 to July 1999, and resigned from Ariel Sharon's cabinet—where he held the finance portfolio—after opposing the "Disengagement Plan." This plan saw the evacuation of close to 8,000 Israeli settlers who lived in 21 Gaza Strip and four northern West Bank settlements. Sharon thought this gesture was necessary to reach a peace deal with the Palestinians.

About 300,000 Israelis currently live in more than 100 Jewish settlements in the West Bank, along with about 2.5 million Palestinians.

The Obama administration has urged the Israeli government to cease all settlement activity in order to break a deadlock in peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Earlier this year, Netanyahu allowed for the construction of some 900 new settlements in occupied territory, citing the need to understand the "natural growth" of the Israeli population living in the area.

On Nov. 25, Netanyahu's office announced a "temporary suspension of construction permits for housing" in the West Bank, but not in East Jerusalem. The freeze would last for ten months in principle.

Polling Data

Did Benjamin Netanyahu break his election campaign promises by deciding on the construction freeze?

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Yes | 51% |
| No | 23% |
| Not sure / Other | 26% |

Why do you think Benjamin Netanyahu decided to impose the construction freeze?

| | |
|---|-----|
| To placate President Obama | 68% |
| He genuinely thinks it will promote the peace process with the Palestinians | 20% |
| Nor sure / Other | 12% |

Source: Maagar Mochot / IMRA

Methodology: Interviews with 512 Israeli adults, conducted in December 2009. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.

EAST ASIA

Filipinos Unaware of Automated Election System

December 12, 2009

Most people in the Philippines claim to know very little or nothing at all about a program to automate voting in the next election, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 61 per cent of respondents are unaware of the Automated Election System (AES).

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over as president in January 2001, following Joseph Estrada's resignation. Arroyo won a six-year term in the June 2004 presidential election, garnering 39.99 per cent of all cast ballots.

A new presidential election is scheduled to take place in June 2010. The country's Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has announced that the next ballot will see the introduction of electronic voting machines.

On Dec. 7, Henrietta de Villa, head of the election watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), said that her organization will work to familiarize voters with the new machines, declaring, "We are going to implement an automated election system for the first time in the country so we have to match this with the change on how people should properly choose a candidate, so we are educating our voters with our advocacy."

Polling Data

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and Smartmatic-Tim are continuously preparing for the implementation of the Automated Election Systems (AES). Part of the AES involves changing the ballot and the manner by which votes will be counted. How would you describe the amount of knowledge you have regarding the Automated Election System (AES)?

| | |
|---|-----|
| A great deal of knowledge | 13% |
| Not a great deal, but a sufficient amount | 26% |
| A little knowledge | 40% |
| Almost none or no knowledge at all | 21% |

Source: Pulse Asia

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,200 Filipino adults, conducted from Oct. 22 to Oct. 30, 2009. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Taiwanese Grow Frustrated with President Ma

December 13, 2009

Three out of every five people in Taiwan are disappointed with the performance of Ma Ying-jeou, according to a poll by Global Views. 61 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with their president, up 2.4 points since October.

In 1895, following a military defeat, China ceded Taiwan to Japan. At the end of World War II, the island was returned to Chinese control. In 1949, as Mao Zedong's communists were gaining prominence in mainland China, Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek established the Republic of China in Taiwan.

A series of democratic reforms implemented by Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui in the early 1990s allowed Taiwan's residents to take part in free and fair elections. To this date, the People's Republic of China considers Taiwan a "renegade province" and reserves the right to bring it under control.

In March 2008, Ma won the presidential election with 58.45 of the vote as a candidate for the Kuomintang Party (KMT). Frank Hsieh of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) finished second with 41.55 per cent.

The KMT advocates for maintaining the status quo with the Chinese central government, while the DPP has aggressively pursued independence from Beijing.

Earlier this month, the KMT performed poorly in local elections across Taiwan. On Dec. 9, Ma personally addressed the results, declaring, "I felt unease at the outcome and thought that I should take responsibility. Hereby I, as the chairman of the Kuomintang, would like to apologize to our supporters. As we hadn't done enough, our supporters were disappointed and did not vote [for us]."

Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Ma Ying-jeou's performance as president?

| | Nov. 2009 | Oct. 2009 | Sept. 2009 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Satisfied | 28.3% | 29.5% | 28.2% |
| Dissatisfied | 61.0% | 58.6% | 59.6% |

Source: Global Views

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,004 Taiwanese adults, conducted from Nov. 15 to Nov. 17, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

JAPAN & KOREA

Support for Japanese Cabinet Quickly Slipping

December 10, 2009

The appointed cabinet of Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama is losing public backing, according to a poll by *Yomiuri*. 59 per cent of respondents approve of the government's performance, down four points since November.

Last August, Japanese voters renewed the House of Representatives. Final results gave the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) a victory with 308 of the 480 lower house seats at stake. Hatoyama, the DPJ leader, was sworn in as prime minister in September.

Aside from a brief period in the 1990s, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had administered Japan's government for more than five decades.

Earlier this year, Japan began to recover from its most serious recession since the end of World War II.

On Dec. 8, the Japanese government said it wants to avoid a "double-dip" recession by introducing a new stimulus package worth about \$80 billion U.S. The government issued a statement, which read: "We must present an economic package promptly in order to make the economic recovery solid in the face of the current severe economic and employment situation, the yen's rise and deflation."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of Yukio Hatoyama's cabinet?

| | Dec. 2009 | Nov. 2009 | Oct. 2009 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Approve | 59% | 63% | 71% |
| Disapprove | 29% | 27% | 21% |

Source: Yomiuri

Methodology: Interviews with 1,092 Japanese adults, conducted from Dec. 4 to Nov. 8, 2009. No margin of error was provided.

AFRICA

South Africans Fear World Cup Terror Attack

December 12, 2009

Most people in South Africa are concerned about the possibility of their country being the target of a terrorist attack when it hosts the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, according to a poll by TNS Research Surveys. 51 per cent of respondents share this concern.

South Africa will host the Soccer World Cup from Jun. 11 to Jul. 11, 2010.

On Dec. 4, the Cape Town International Convention Center, the World Cup's official venue in South Africa's capital city, was sealed off following a bomb threat. The episode happened just hours before officials of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) conducted the final draw to determine which teams will play against each other in the first round of the tournament.

Once the incident was over, Police spokesman Vish Naidoo declared: "It's just a bomb threat. It's not the first one. We had one this morning at the airport."

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? - "I am concerned about the threat of a terrorist attack during the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup"

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 51% |
| Disagree | 37% |

Source: TNS Research Surveys

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 2,000 South African adults in seven major metropolitan areas, conducted in November 2009. Margin of error is 2.5 per cent.

EAST EUROPE

Global Economic Crisis Is Personal for Russians

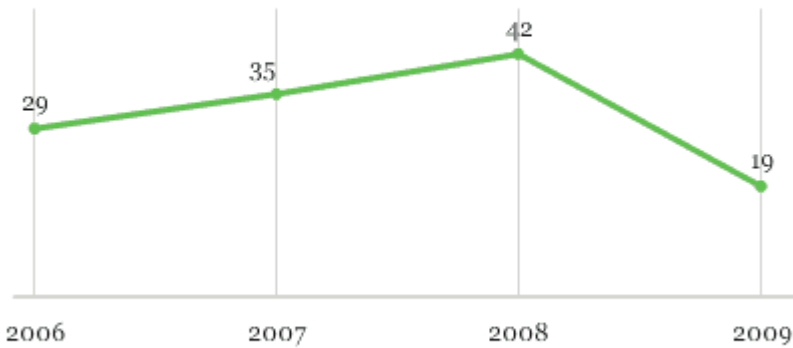
Most affected by some negative aspect of crisis

December 11, 2009

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said last week that while the worst of the economic crisis may be over, it would take time, effort, and considerable resources for his country to emerge from it. Russia's record-low score this spring on Gallup's Personal Economy Index, which measures respondents' economic situations and the economics of the communities they live in, illustrates the toll the crisis exacted on Russians' everyday lives.

Russia's Personal Economy Index

The Personal Economy Index measures respondents' personal economic situations and the economics of the communities they live in.



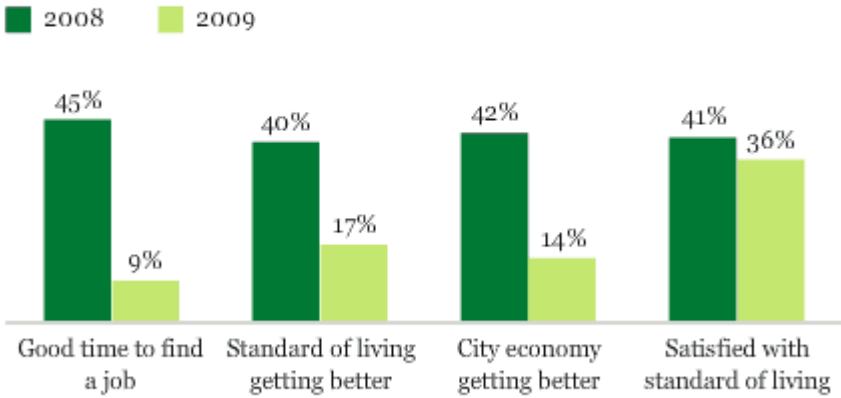
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The subjective measures of personal economy that make up Gallup's index -- people's outlooks on the local job market, local economy, and their own standard of living -- complement traditional macroeconomic indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) and unemployment rates. While GDP, which in Russia is anticipated to shrink by at least 8.5% this year, is an important measure of economic activity, it is an imprecise measure of how these changes translate into living conditions.

Gallup's survey, conducted in April through June, shows Russians' confidence in their nation's economy faltered as it entered recession this year accompanied by unemployment and inflation. Reflecting on their own communities and themselves, Russians' optimism about the local job market, their personal standard of living, and the local economy -- three of four items that make up the index -- withered to less than half of last year's levels.

Dramatic Declines on Russians' Personal Economic Measures

In 2009, far fewer Russians were optimistic on three of the four items that make up the Personal Economy Index.



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Touched by Crisis

Russians' lack of optimism about their own situations is understandable given that most said they or their families had already been touched by some negative effect of the crisis. Russians were most likely to say price increases had already affected them (76%), followed by reductions in salaries (34%) and reductions in consumption (34%). About 1 in 10 said they'd been affected by job loss (11%) or that possibilities for additional earning were limited (10%).

Which negative effects of the crisis have already touched you or members of your family?

Among Russian adults

| | April-June 2009 |
|--|------------------------|
| Price increase | 76% |
| Reduction of salary | 34 |
| Reduced consumption (started saving) | 34 |
| Loss of job (employment) | 11 |
| No considerable changes in my life (Volunteered) | 11 |
| Limited possibilities for additional earning | 10 |
| Difficulty to get credit/Changed current terms of credit | 8 |
| Shortened work week | 7 |
| Deteriorated condition of housing | 6 |
| Changed job | 5 |
| Reduced social package (e.g., insurance, educational programs, corporate events) | 4 |
| Difficulty to withdraw money from bank accounts/problems with deposits | 2 |
| Lost savings in a bank | 2 |
| Other | 1 |
| Don't know/Refused | 1 |

Responses total more than 100% because up to five responses were allowed.

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Those struggling most with price increases were Russians who said their households don't have enough money even for food (5%) or said they could buy food, but buying clothes created serious problems (30%). More than 8 in 10 Russians who described their household's status this way said they had already been affected by price increases. Such price increases also likely dampened the consumer spending so crucial to economic recovery.

How would you describe the financial status of your household?

Among Russian adults

| | % |
|--|----|
| Not enough money even for food | 5 |
| Can buy food, but buying clothes causes serious problems | 30 |
| Can buy food, clothes, small HH appliances, but not a TV, fridge, or washing machine | 42 |
| Can buy major HH appliances, but not a new car | 16 |
| Can buy anything except realty (a dacha/flat) | 5 |
| No financial difficulties. Could buy a flat or dacha, if needed | 1 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3 |

April-June 2009

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Bottom Line

While Russia's GDP is still expected to shrink for the year, the country technically emerged from recession in the third quarter, and the government anticipates growth to continue in 2010 and accelerate in 2011. Some, like Putin, point to positive trends that are "making themselves felt and are clearly manifested" such as easing inflation and growth in several industries. But despite the relatively positive economic news, Gallup's surveys suggest the recovery of the average Russian consumer's confidence will still take time, effort, and considerable resources.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with 2,042 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted April-June 2009 in Russia. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 2.8 percentage points. Other results based on face-to-face interviews with approximately 2,000 to 3,000 adults in March 2006, May 2007, and May 2008, with the maximum margin of sampling error ranging between ± 2.2 percentage points and ± 2.5 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.

Index scores are calculated at the individual record level. For each individual record the following procedure applies: The four items are recoded so that positive answers are scored as a "1" and all other answers (including don't know and refused) are assigned a score of "0." If a record has no answer for an item, then that item is not eligible for inclusion in the calculations. An individual record has an index calculated if it has valid scores for at least three questions. A record's final index score is the mean of valid items multiplied by 100. The final country-level index score is the mean of all individual records for which an index score was calculated. Country-level weights are applied to this calculation.

WEST EUROPE

Britons Remain Opposed to Afghanistan Mission

December 09, 2009

Public support for the military operation in Afghanistan remains low in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 56 per cent of respondents oppose the mission, and 56 per cent reject a plan to deploy an additional 500 soldiers in the next few weeks.

Afghanistan has been the main battleground in the war on terrorism. The conflict began in October 2001, after the Taliban regime refused to hand over Osama bin Laden without evidence of his participation in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Al-Qaeda operatives hijacked and crashed four airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people.

At least 1,525 soldiers—including 236 Britons—have died in the war on terrorism, either in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

On Nov. 30, British prime minister Gordon Brown outlined the plan for the additional deployment, adding, "As long as three quarters of the most serious terrorist plots against Britain have links to those Pakistan/Afghan border areas, we should be failing in our duty if we didn't work with our allies to deal with the problem where it starts. (...) The safety of people on the streets of Britain requires us to deny al-Qaeda the space to operate across Pakistan and deny them the option of returning to operate in Afghanistan."

Polling Data

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving UK soldiers in Afghanistan?

| | Nov. 2009 | Oct. 2009 | Jul. 2009 |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Support | 36% | 35% | 39% |
| Oppose | 56% | 59% | 53% |
| Not sure | 8% | 6% | 9% |

As you may know, Prime Minister Brown has outlined a plan to send 500 additional UK soldiers to Afghanistan in the next few weeks. From what you have seen, read or heard about this, do you support or oppose the Prime Minister's plan?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Support | 35% |
| Oppose | 56% |
| Not sure | 9% |

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,004 British adults, conducted from Dec. 2 to Dec. 4, 2009. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Germans Mount Pressure on Afghan Withdrawal

December 06, 2009

The proportion of people in Germany wanting a full withdrawal of troops serving in Afghanistan has significantly increased, according to a poll by Infratest-Dimap released by ARD. 69 per cent of respondents support bringing all the troops back from Afghanistan, up 12 points since September.

Afghanistan has been the main battleground in the war on terrorism. The conflict began in October 2001, after the Taliban regime refused to hand over Osama bin Laden without evidence of his participation in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Al-Qaeda operatives hijacked and crashed four airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people.

At least 1,525 soldiers—including 31 Germans—have died in the conflict, either in support of the United States-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

On Nov. 26, Wolfgang Schneiderhan, the German army's chief of staff, tendered his resignation after it became known that more than 30 Afghan civilians died in a botched air strike involving German soldiers. German defence minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg said that Schneiderhan had "released himself from his duties at his own request."

On Dec. 3, German lawmakers approved the extension of the military mission in Afghanistan for one more year. However, a cap that limits the number of troops that can serve in that country was maintained at 4,500 soldiers.

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose withdrawing German troops from Afghanistan?

| | Dec. 2009 | Sept. 2009 |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 69% | 57% |
| No | 27% | 30% |

Source: Infratest-Dimap / ARD

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,000 German adults, conducted on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

EU Company Forecasts Vary Widely

More than one in six expect less revenue in the next two to three years

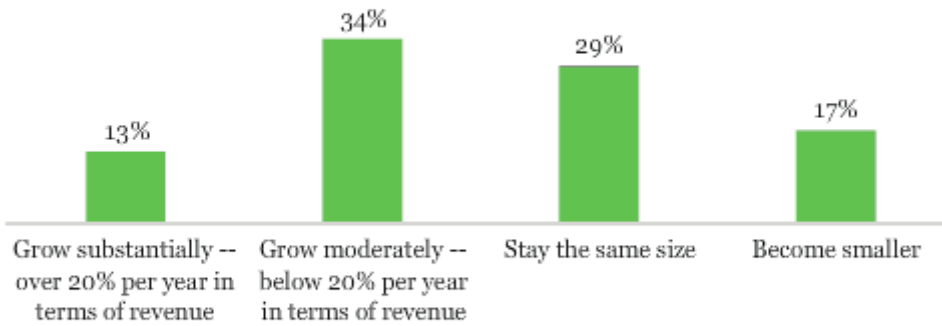
December 9, 2009

In July 2009, across the European Union, nearly half of managers surveyed predicted growth for their companies in the next 2 to 3 years and about 3 in 10 thought their annual revenue would

remain the same. More than one in six EU company managers said they expected their annual income to decrease in that time frame.

Considering revenue over the next two to three years, how much does your company expect to grow?

EU companies



Flash Eurobarometer
June 17-July 23, 2009

GALLUP®

Among the 27 EU member states, Sweden, France, and Denmark were the countries where managers were the least likely to expect their companies' revenue to decrease in the next two to three years. Several of the countries where a significant number felt that income would fall, such as the Baltic states and Hungary, were in eastern Europe, but that fear was also expressed in Ireland (34%), Germany (26%), and Spain (22%).

Most likely to forecast a reduction in revenue

EU companies

| Country | % |
|-----------|----|
| Ireland | 34 |
| Lativa | 34 |
| Hungary | 32 |
| Lithuania | 28 |
| Germany | 26 |

Flash Eurobarometer
June 17-July 23, 2009

GALLUP®

Least likely to forecast a reduction in revenue

EU companies

| Country | % |
|----------|----|
| Sweden | 6 |
| France | 8 |
| Denmark | 8 |
| Belgium | 9 |
| Portugal | 11 |

Flash Eurobarometer
June 17-July 23, 2009

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Managers at medium-sized companies with 50 to 249 employees were most likely to expect income to decrease (21% vs. 14% to 17% of other-sized companies). Managers of companies with an annual revenue between \$15 million and \$74 million (€10 million and €50 million) were also the most likely to anticipate that their revenue would decrease in the next two to three years (25% vs. 16% to 17% of other companies).

Turning to Banks

To improve their future economic situation, many companies may decide to talk to banks about financing. Roughly 6 in 10 managers were confident that they would be able to obtain the desired results after such a request, while slightly more than 1 in 4 said they were not confident about the outcome.

Do you feel confident to talk about financing with banks and to obtain the desired result?

EU companies



Flash Eurobarometer
June 17-July 23, 2009

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Confidence to talk about financing with banks to obtain a desired result was the highest among respondents in Slovenia (86%). In France, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Finland between 71% and 74% of respondents felt confident that they would obtain the desired result. Respondents in Latvia were the most likely to admit not feeling confident in this regard (60%). Romania, Estonia, and Spain followed, with between 41% and 51% of managers saying they didn't feel confident to talk about financing with banks.

As for the availability of bank loans, Slovenia (18%) and France (14%) were two of the countries, together with Cyprus (18%), where managers most expected the financing situation to improve over the next six months. On the contrary, managers in Romania (26%), Ireland (25%), and Spain (24%), felt the availability of such loans would deteriorate over the next six months.

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 9,063 companies across the European Union conducted from June 17-July 23, 2009. Eligible respondents were chief executive officers or chief financial officers. Companies ranged in size from micro (1-9 employees) and small (10-49 employees) to medium-sized (50-249 employees) and large (more than 250 employees). The survey excluded companies in the following sectors: agriculture, fishing, public administration, financial services, activities of households, extra-territorial organizations, and holding companies. For results based on the total sample of EU companies, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error is from ± 3.1 to ± 9.8 .

NORTH AMERICA

After Brief Uptick, Obama Approval Slips to 47%

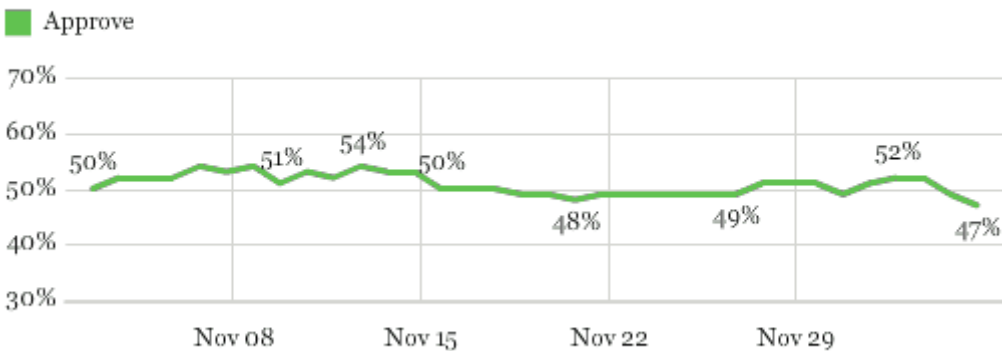
New low follows slight increase after announcement of Afghanistan policy

December 7, 2009

Barack Obama's presidential job approval rating is 47% in the latest Gallup Poll Daily tracking update, a new low for his administration to date. His approval rating has been below 50% for much of the time since mid-November, but briefly rose to 52% last week after he announced his new Afghanistan policy.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

Recent three-day rolling averages



GALLUP®

Any slight bump in support Obama received coincident with his new Afghanistan policy proved to be very short-lived, as his approval rating returned to below the majority level by the weekend, and slipped further to 47% in Dec. 4-6 polling.

Afghanistan is just one of many high-profile issues with which the president is dealing. Immediate public reaction to his new Afghanistan policy showed 51% in favor and 40% opposed, according to a Dec. 2 *USA Today*/Gallup poll.

Obama spent part of Sunday on Capitol Hill talking to lawmakers as they continue working on healthcare reform legislation. In the most recent Gallup update, more Americans said they would advise their members to vote against healthcare legislation than said they would advise them to vote for it.

"Thus far in December, Obama has averaged 50% job approval. That is similar to the December averages for Ronald Reagan (49%) and Bill Clinton (53%), who also took office when the economy was struggling."

Additionally, in recent days Obama has been ramping up his focus on finding ways to create jobs for out-of-work Americans, and is planning a major speech on Tuesday outlining his ideas for spurring job creation. In late November, Gallup found slight majorities of Americans disapproving of the way Obama was handling job creation and the economy more generally.

Obama travels to Oslo, Norway, this week to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. In October, Obama got a slight bump in his approval ratings after he was announced as the winner. Obama will also travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, to attend the global climate change conference.

In the new Dec. 4-6 Gallup Daily results, Obama's approval rating is 14% among Republicans, 42% among independents, and 83% among Democrats. Compared to his ratings in early November, when he averaged 53% job approval overall, his ratings are down three points among Democrats, seven points among independents, and four points among Republicans.

Thus far in December, Obama has averaged 50% job approval. That is similar to the December averages for Ronald Reagan (49%) and Bill Clinton (53%), who also took office when the economy was struggling. All other recent presidents elected to their first terms had approval averages of 57% or above in their first December in office.

Job Approval Rating Averages for Presidents in December of First Year in Office

Presidents elected to office

| | December of first year | Job approval average |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dwight Eisenhower | December 1953 | 69% |
| John Kennedy | December 1961 | 77% |
| Richard Nixon | December 1969 | 59% |
| Jimmy Carter | December 1977 | 57% |
| Ronald Reagan | December 1981 | 49% |
| George H.W. Bush | December 1989 | 71% |
| Bill Clinton | December 1993 | 53% |
| George W. Bush | December 2001 | 86% |

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Bottom Line

Obama faced significant challenges upon taking office, including arguably the worst economy since the Great Depression and two ongoing wars. Obama is actively trying to address these issues while also tackling some longer-term issues like healthcare and climate change. Over the course of the year, his approval ratings have fallen, perhaps due to lack of obvious progress on many of these fronts, but also perhaps because of the public's apparent reluctance so far to embrace the healthcare reform effort.

Obama maintains the support of more than 8 in 10 Democrats, though his approval ratings among his fellow partisans have declined over the course of the year. He has seen his approval ratings among independents and Republicans slide by at least 20 points since the beginning of his term, and now stands at a personal low of 47% approval among all Americans.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,529 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Dec. 4-6, 2009, as part of Gallup Daily tracking. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones.

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

Most People Know the Dollar Is Weak and Believe This Is Bad for the Economy, Consumers, the Reputation and Influence of the U.S. and for Exports

Less than one quarter of adults understand that a weak dollar helps exports

A new Harris Poll finds that most adults are aware that the dollar has become weaker against most other major currencies over the last few years, and they think that is a bad thing. Substantial majorities believe that a weak dollar is bad for consumers, and for the reputation and influence of the United States. More surprisingly perhaps substantial majorities also believe that a weak dollar is bad for exports and the economy.

These are some of the results of *The Harris Poll* of 2,303 adults surveyed online between November 2 and 11, 2009 by Harris Interactive.

The main findings of this Harris Poll include:

- Most people know that the dollar has declined against most other major currencies over the last few years (86%) and that the Euro has risen against the dollar (72%). But that leaves sizable minorities who do not know this.
- Substantial majorities believe that a weak dollar has been bad for the U.S. economy (78%), American consumers (75%), the reputation of the U.S. (73%), the influence of the U.S. government (68%) and for U.S. exports (60%).
- A clear plurality (43%) believes that the economic crisis is the major reason for the weak dollar. Fewer attribute the dollar's weakness mainly to the budget deficit (27%), the war in Iraq and Afghanistan (11%), oil and gas imports (10%), or imports from China (9%).
- Awareness of the weak dollar has increased somewhat over the last two years. More people (86% vs. 79%) now know that the dollar has weakened against other major currencies. More people also know that the dollar is weaker against the Euro (72% vs. 57%).

So what?

The level of economic illiteracy seems to be high.

There are several surprises in these data, where the public would appear to be wrong. Economists are unanimous in saying that a weak dollar is good, not bad, for exports, and many would argue that it is good for the economy at least in the short term.

And a plurality of the public is surely wrong in attributing the weakness of the dollar to the economic crisis. The decline of the dollar occurred before the fall of 2008 and actually strengthened for a while after the crisis broke.

TABLE 1

HAS THE DOLLAR INCREASED OR DECLINED IN VALUE AGAINST OTHER CURRENCIES?
“Which of the following do you think is the most accurate description of what has happened to

the value of the U.S. dollar compared to other major currencies over the last few years?

Base: All Adults

| | Oct 2007 | Nov 2009 | Education | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | | H.S. or Less | Some College | College Grad | Post Grad |
| | | | % | % | % | % |
| DECLINED (NET) | 79 | 86 | 84 | 88 | 83 | 92 |
| It has declined in value a lot | 51 | 56 | 56 | 60 | 52 | 54 |
| It has declined in value a little | 28 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 38 |
| It has not changed much | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| RISEN (NET) | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 9 | * |
| It has risen in value a little | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | * |
| It has risen in value a lot | * | 1 | 1 | * | 4 | * |
| Not sure | 12 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

TABLE 2

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE EXCHANGE RATE BETWEEN THE DOLLAR AND THE EURO?

“Many countries in Europe now use the Euro. Which of the following do you think best describes what has happened to the exchange rate between the Euro and the dollar over the last few years?”

Base: All Adults

| | Oct 2007 | Nov 2009 | Education | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | | H.S. or Less | Some College | College Grad | Post Grad |
| | | | % | % | % | % |
| The Dollar has become more valuable (NET) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Much more valuable in relation to the Euro | 1 | 1 | 1 | * | * | - |
| A little more valuable in relation to the Euro | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Not much change | 7 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 5 |
| The Euro has become more valuable (NET) | 57 | 72 | 64 | 75 | 79 | 85 |
| Little more valuable in relation to the dollar | 23 | 34 | 31 | 35 | 33 | 42 |
| Much more valuable in relation to the dollar | 35 | 38 | 33 | 40 | 46 | 43 |
| Not sure | 30 | 17 | 25 | 13 | 8 | 7 |

TABLE 3

IMPACT OF WEAKER DOLLAR ON THE U.S.

“In fact, the dollar is much weaker now than it used to be – in other words, it takes more dollars to buy Euros than it used to. Do you think that the decline in the value of the dollar is good or bad for ...?”

Base: All Adults

| | | Bad For | Makes Little Difference | Good For | Not Sure |
|---|---|---------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| The American economy | % | 78 | 11 | 5 | 5 |
| American consumers | % | 75 | 15 | 5 | 5 |
| The reputation of the United States | % | 73 | 19 | 3 | 5 |
| The ability of the U.S. government to influence other countries | % | 68 | 22 | 4 | 6 |
| American exports | % | 60 | 10 | 22 | 7 |

TABLE 4
IMPACT OF WEAKER DOLLAR ON THE U.S. – TREND

“In fact, the dollar is much weaker now than it used to be – in other words, it takes more dollars to buy Euros than it used to. Do you think that the decline in the value of the dollar is good or bad for ...?”

Base: All Adults

| | Bad For | | Good For | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Oct 2007 | Nov 2009 | Oct 2007 | Nov 2009 |
| | % | % | % | % |
| The American economy | 66 | 78 | 6 | 5 |
| American consumers | 68 | 75 | 4 | 5 |
| The reputation of the United States | 61 | 73 | 3 | 3 |
| The ability of the U.S. government to influence other countries | 60 | 68 | 3 | 4 |
| American exports | 55 | 60 | 21 | 22 |

TABLE 5
REASON FOR DECLINE IN VALUE OF DOLLAR

“Which of the following do you think is the major reason why the dollar has declined in value?”

Base: All Adults

| | Total | Political Party | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| | | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Economic Crisis | 43 | 41 | 47 | 40 |
| Budget deficit | 27 | 35 | 17 | 32 |
| Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan | 11 | 4 | 15 | 11 |
| Oil and gas imports | 10 | 12 | 13 | 7 |
| Imports from China | 9 | 8 | 8 | 9 |

Methodology

This Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States November 2 and 11, 2009 among 2,303 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for

respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

Big Drop in Those Who Believe That Global Warming Is Coming

Those who believe it is a serious problem have also declined

As President Obama prepares to head to Copenhagen next week, a new Harris Poll finds that those who believe that the release of carbon dioxide and other gases will lead to global warming has dropped from 71% two years ago to only 51% now. While many people are not sure, those who do not believe that carbon dioxide emissions will cause global warming have increased from 23% to 29% since 2007.

These are some of the results of *The Harris Poll* of 2,303 adults surveyed online between November 2 and 11, 2009 by Harris Interactive.

Other interesting findings in this survey include:

- Most people do not know that the main topic to be discussed at the international conference in Copenhagen in December is global warming and climate change. Just over half (52%) say they do not know what it is about and many people think the main topic is something else. Only 28% believe global warming and climate change is the main topic.
- The 51% who believe emissions will cause climate change is by far the lowest number recorded in any Harris Poll since we started asking this question 12 years ago. Since 2000, 70% or more of adults have believed this. This big change is mainly a result of a big increase in those who are not sure, up from 6% in 2007 to 21% now.
- Opinions on global warming are politically polarized. There is a huge difference between the 73% of Democrats who believe that greenhouse emissions cause global warming and the 28% of Republicans and 49% of Independents who believe this.
- Notwithstanding the decline in those who believe that emissions will cause global warming, most people (75%) think we should treat the possibility of global warming as a serious problem. However, there has been a modest drop in those who think it should be treated as a *very* serious

problem from 46% in 2007 to 41% now. There are also big differences by party: 63% of Democrats but only 17% of Republicans and 38% of Independents believe global warming should be treated as a very serious problem.

So what?

The sharp drop in those who believe that greenhouse emissions will cause global warming will make it harder for leaders to introduce new policies to promote alternative energy sources and reduce our carbon footprint.

The large differences between the attitudes of Democrats and Republicans will also make it more difficult to develop new bipartisan energy policies.

TABLE 1
COP15 – UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

"In December, there will be a major international conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Do you know which of these will be the main topic to be discussed?"

Base: All Adults

| | November 2009 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| | % |
| Global warming and climate change | 28 |
| Economic crisis | 9 |
| Nuclear weapons | 3 |
| Health & epidemics | 3 |
| Terrorism | 2 |
| International trade | 1 |
| Third world development | 1 |
| Something else | 1 |
| Drugs | * |
| Crime | * |
| Foreign aid | * |
| Not at all sure | 52 |

TABLE 2
BELIEF IN GLOBAL WARMING

"Do you believe the theory that increased carbon dioxide and other gases released into the atmosphere will, if unchecked lead to global warming and an increase in average temperatures, or not?"

Base: All Adults

| | 1997 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2007 | 2009 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Believe | 67 | 72 | 75 | 74 | 71 | 51 |
| Do not believe | 21 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 23 | 29 |
| Not sure | 12 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 21 |

TABLE 3
BELIEF IN GLOBAL WARMING – BY PARTY

"Do you believe the theory that increased carbon dioxide and other gases released into the atmosphere will, if unchecked lead to global warming and an increase in average temperatures, or not?"

Base: All Adults

| | Total | Party ID | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Believe | 51 | 28 | 73 | 49 |
| Do not believe | 29 | 51 | 8 | 31 |
| Not sure | 21 | 21 | 19 | 20 |

TABLE 4
TREATMENT OF GLOBAL WARMING

"Do you think that the possibility of global warming should be treated as a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem or not a serious problem?"

Base: All Adults

| | 1997 | 2000 | 2009 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % | % | % |
| Very serious | 47 | 46 | 41 |
| Somewhat serious | 40 | 39 | 34 |
| Not a serious problem | 11 | 13 | 22 |
| Not sure | 2 | 1 | 4 |

TABLE 5
HOW SERIOUS IS GLOBAL WARMING – BY PARTY

"Do you think that the possibility of global warming should be treated as a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem or not a serious problem?"

Base: All Adults

| | Total | Party ID | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|
| | | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Very serious | 41 | 17 | 63 | 38 |
| Somewhat serious | 34 | 37 | 30 | 35 |
| Not a serious problem | 22 | 41 | 3 | 25 |
| Not sure | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |

Methodology

This Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States November 2 and 11, 2009 among 2,303 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

Zogby Interactive: More Americans Have Little or No Concern About Climate Change

Survey finds less than half (44%) believe U.S. should act to reduce energy use if it means major lifestyle changes

As the United Nations climate change summit in Copenhagen heads into its final week, nearly half of Americans -- 49% -- say they are only slightly or not at all concerned about climate change, while 35% are somewhat or highly concerned, a new Zogby Interactive survey shows. Zogby's latest polling shows an increase in those who hold this view compared with 2007, when 39% said they were slightly or not at all concerned about climate change and 48% said they were somewhat or highly concerned.

Intensity of concern about global climate change has shifted over the past three years in favor of those who are not at all concerned - 27% held this view in 2007, compared to 37% who say the same now. Fewer now say they are highly concerned - 20% today compared to 30% in 2007.

This latest survey shows more than two-thirds of Republicans (68%) and 46% of political independents say they are "not at all concerned" about global climate change and global warming, compared to just 7% of Democrats. Thirty-eight percent of Democrats are highly concerned, compared to 4% of Republicans and 14% of independents.

Most don't want U.S. government to reduce energy use if it requires major lifestyle changes

When it comes to the personal changes that may be required as part of a national plan of action to address climate change, less than half (44%) believe the U.S. government should act to reduce energy use in the U.S. even if that means significant personal lifestyle changes. Nearly twice as many (41%) strongly disagree with government action aimed at energy reduction that would require major lifestyle changes, than strongly agree (19%). Seventy-five percent of Democrats somewhat or strongly agree with government action to cut energy use in the U.S., compared to 74% of Republicans who strongly disagree. Those from least wealthy households (less than \$25,000 per year) are most likely to agree with the U.S. government trying to reduce energy use despite how it could impact their personal lifestyles - 62% agree, compared to 35% of those with \$75,000 to \$100,000 in household income. Half of Americans (50%) agree that solving global climate change will require considerable economic sacrifice on the part of the United States - 44% disagree that this will be required.

Other findings from the survey include:

- Most believe there is at least some connection between human behavior and global climate change - 38% believe there is a strong connection, while 30% say there is some connection but no significant impact. Another 26% believe there is no connection between human action and global climate change. Seventy-one percent of Democrats believe there is a strong connection, compared to just 9% of Republicans.
- Fifty percent believe global climate change and global warming is a legitimate problem, while 47% believe it is not a problem. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of First Globals™, those age 18-30, view global climate change as a legitimate problem, while fewer than half of older generations say the same. More than half (54%) of these young Americans strongly agree it is a legitimate problem.
- Forty-seven percent believe the U.S. government is doing enough to prevent global climate change, but nearly as many (43%) don't believe enough is being done.
- Most likely voters (50%) believe the U.S. should work with other groups such as the U.N. or European Union to address global climate change. Forty-eight percent disagree, with 40% who say they strongly disagree.
- Sixty-two percent give Obama negative marks for his handling of energy issues - including 47% who give him a "poor" rating. Just 34% give Obama positive marks for his performance handling energy issues. Sixty-seven percent of Democrats give Obama an "excellent" or "good" rating for handling energy issues, compared to 83% of Republicans and 55% of independents who give him a "poor" rating.

This interactive survey of 3,072 adults nationwide was conducted Dec. 8-10, 2009. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of adult Americans, was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, education to

more accurately reflect the population. The margin of error is +/- 1.8 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

The 2007 interactive survey of 8,300 adults nationwide was conducted June 15-18, 2007. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of adult Americans, was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, education to more accurately reflect the population. The margin of error is +/- 1.1 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

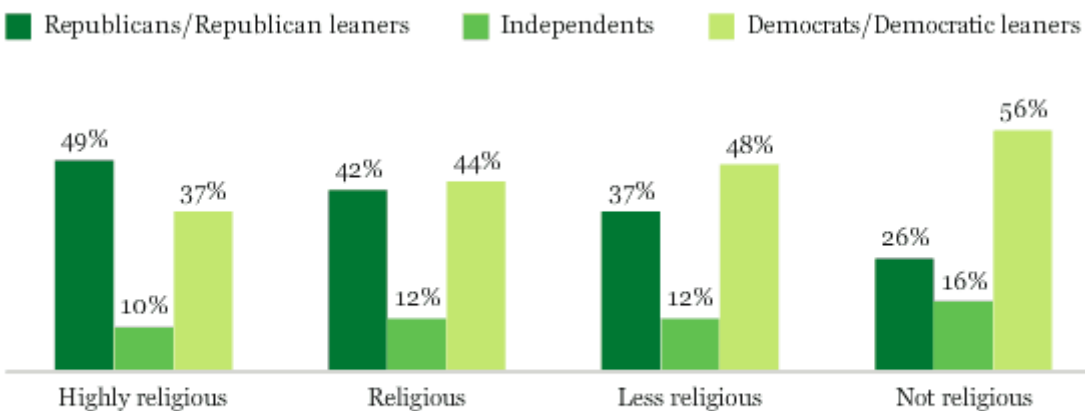
Religious Intensity Remains Powerful Predictor of Politics

Relationship is most evident among non-Hispanic whites

December 11, 2009

Americans' religious intensity continues to be a major predictor of party identification. A new analysis of more than 29,000 interviews Gallup conducted in November finds that Republicans outnumber Democrats by 12 percentage points among Americans who are classified as highly religious, while Democrats outnumber Republicans by 30 points among those who are not religious.

Party Identification, by Religiosity



Gallup Daily tracking, November 2009

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The current analysis is based on 29,192 interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking during the month of November. Party identifiers include those who initially identify with one of the two major parties plus independents who, in a follow-up question, say they lean toward one party or the other.

Gallup has developed the religious segments based on responses to questions measuring the personal importance of religion and church attendance. Details on the classification process are available at the end of this story.

"As was the case with party identification, whites who are highly religious are more than twice as likely as those who are not religious to disapprove of Obama's job performance, 65% to 32%, respectively."

The basic relationship between religiosity and party identification is quite strong and quite straightforward. The percentage of Americans who identify with or lean toward the Republican Party drops from 49% among the highly religious to 26% among those who are not religious. The percentage who identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party rises from 37% among the highly religious to 56% among those who are not religious. For comparison, the party figures for November among all adults in these data are 40% Republicans/Republican leaners and 45% Democrats/Democratic leaners.

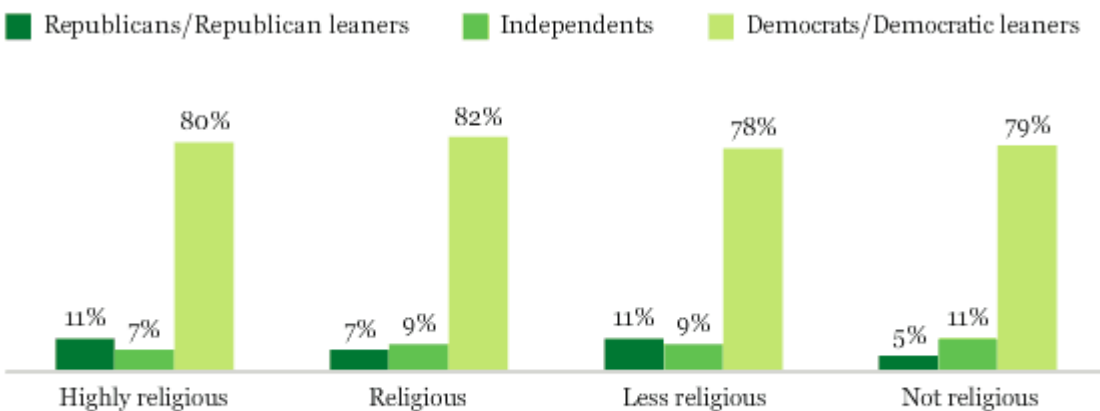
Thus, Republicans are in the plurality among highly religious Americans. For each of the other three groups, Democrats are equal with or higher in number than Republicans. The Democratic edge expands as religiosity decreases. Among the not-religious group, Democrats have a 30-point edge over Republicans.

Differences by Race and Ethnicity

There are significant differences in the relationship between party identification and religion within racial and ethnic groups.

Black Americans are highly Democratic, regardless of their religiosity.

Party Identification by Religiosity, Among Blacks

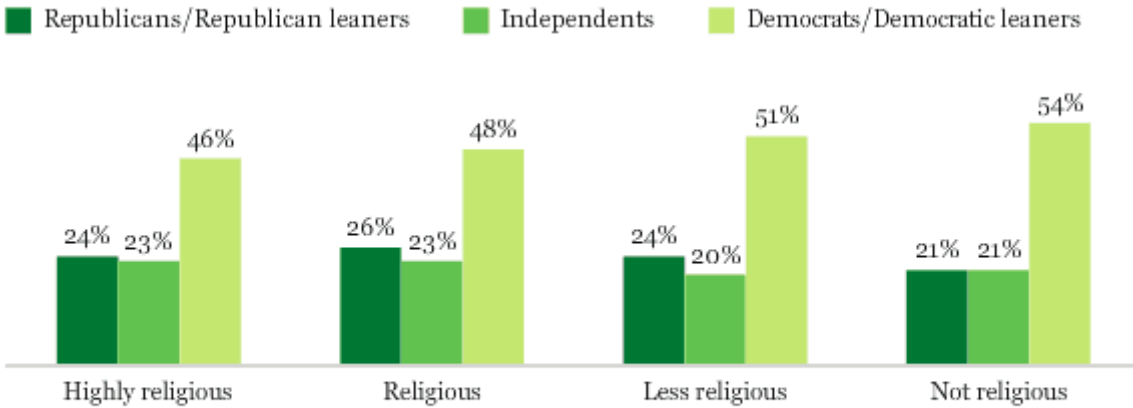


Gallup Daily tracking, November 2009

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Hispanics also are significantly more likely to identify as Democrats than as Republicans across religious groups, although not as much so as is the case with blacks.

Party Identification by Religiosity, Among Hispanics of Any Race



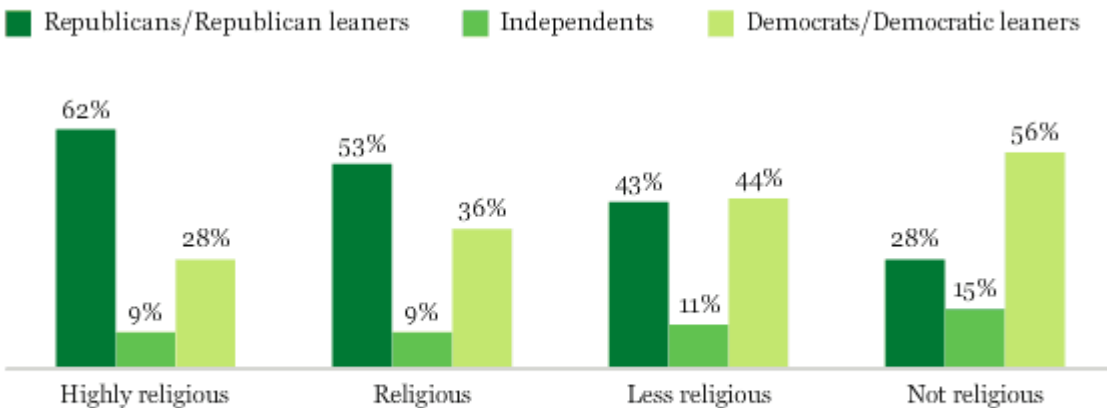
Gallup Daily tracking, November 2009

GALLUP®

There is a modest tendency for Hispanic identification with the Democratic Party to increase as religiosity decreases. Democratic identification rises from 46% among highly religious Hispanics to 54% among not-religious Hispanics. The percentage of Hispanics who identify as Republicans or who are independents falls slightly as religious intensity decreases. (These data are based on all Americans who identify as Hispanic, regardless of their race.)

The relationship between religiosity and party identification is most pronounced among non-Hispanic white Americans.

Party Identification by Religiosity, Among Non-Hispanic Whites



Gallup Daily tracking, November 2009

GALLUP®

Identification as Republican drops from 62% among highly religious white Americans to 28% among whites who are not religious. On the other hand, white identification with the Democratic Party rises from 28% among the highly religious to 56% among those who are not religious.

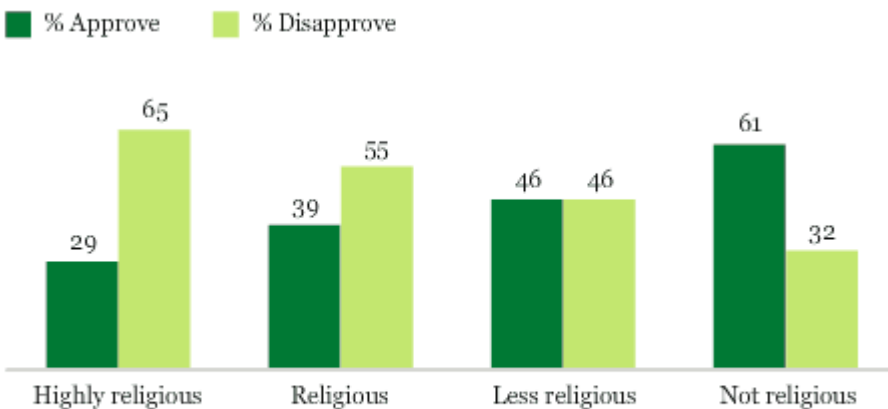
Looked at differently, the data make it evident that Republicans are in the clear majority among non-Hispanic white Americans who are either highly religious or religious. Republican and Democratic identification are at rough parity among those classified as less religious. Democrats are clearly in the majority among whites who are not religious.

Although the country in general has become less Democratic over the last 12 months, a comparative analysis shows that almost exactly the same relationship between intensity of religion and party identification among non-Hispanic whites existed last November as exists now.

Obama Approval

Given the strong relationship between party identification and presidential job approval, it is not surprising to find that religious intensity is also highly related to Obama job approval. Previous analysis has shown that Obama has higher disapproval than approval among whites in general.

Obama Job Approval by Religiosity, Among Non-Hispanic Whites



Gallup Daily tracking, November 2009

GALLUP®

As was the case with party identification, whites who are highly religious are more than twice as likely as those who are not religious to disapprove of Obama's job performance, 65% to 32%, respectively. Those who are not religious are, in contrast, about twice as likely as those who are highly religious to approve of Obama, 61% to 29%.

Implications

The current analysis underscores the degree to which religion and politics continue to be highly intertwined in today's America, a state of affairs that has substantial implications for elections and policy issues.

The religious connection is most apparent among non-Hispanic white Americans. Blacks are strongly Democratic in their orientation, regardless of their religiosity. Hispanics also skew significantly Democratic, and while there is a tendency for less religious Hispanics to be more Democratic in orientation than more religious Hispanics, it does not alter Hispanics' basic skew in the Democratic direction.

The pattern is quite different among whites. Identification with the Republican Party overwhelms identification with the Democratic Party by more than a 2-to-1 margin among highly religious whites, and by a still-substantial margin among those who are religious. Exactly the opposite pattern obtains among whites who are not religious, with a 2-to-1 margin in favor of Democratic versus Republican identification.

About 33% of whites are highly religious, and another 16% are religious. Thus, about half of the white population in the U.S. is both highly religious and significantly oriented toward the Republican Party.

The degree to which religion causes or drives political attitudes and voting behavior among whites is unknown. For some white Americans, religion and political orientation may be accidental bedfellows. These individuals could be Republican for a variety of reasons (e.g., agreement with the GOP's economic policy, or their state of residence) that are not at all directly related to their being highly religious. For other whites, however, there may be a direct relationship. For these individuals, religious convictions form the basis for their political and ideological positions, as would be the case for those highly sensitive to social issues such as abortion and gay marriage. Highly religious people can bring an emotion and certitude and intensity of conviction to the political marketplace that can make them a formidable force well beyond their basic numbers.

Appendix: Religious Classification

The highly religious group (34% of adult Americans) includes those who attend church at least once a week and for whom religion is important in their daily lives. The religious group (18%) attends church almost every week or once a month and say religion is important, or attend church at least once a week or almost every week and say religion is not important. The less religious group (32%) attends church seldom or never but says religion is important or attends once monthly or seldom and says religion is important. The not-religious group (16%) is those who say religion is not important and never attend church.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 29,192 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted in November 2009, as part of Gallup Daily tracking. For results based on the total

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones.

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

Honesty and Ethics Poll Finds Congress' Image Tarnished

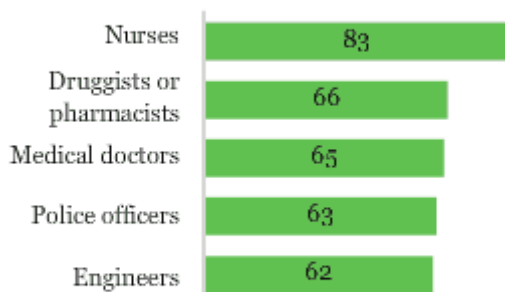
For first time, majority of Americans say its members have low ethics

December 9, 2009

For the first time in Gallup's annual Honesty and Ethics of Professions poll, a majority of Americans -- 55% -- say the honesty and ethical standards of "members of Congress" are low or very low -- slightly worse than "senators," whose ethics are rated low by 49%. By contrast, 83% of Americans say nurses have either very high or high ethical standards, positioning them at the top of Gallup's 2009 ranking of various professions.

Five Most Highly Rated Professions

■ % Very high/High honesty & ethical standards

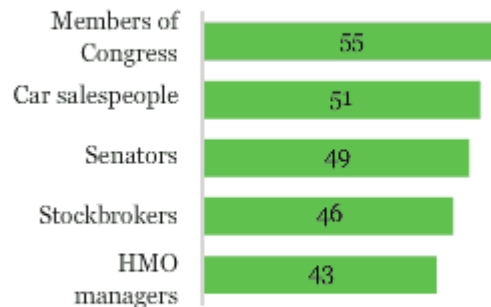


Nov. 20-22, 2009

GALLUP®

Five Least Well-Rated Professions

■ % Low/Very low honesty & ethical standards



Nov. 20-22, 2009

GALLUP®

The percentage of Americans now believing that members of Congress have low ethics is up from 46% in 2008 and 45% in 2007, and has more than doubled since the start of the decade -- rising from 21% in November 2000 to 55% today.

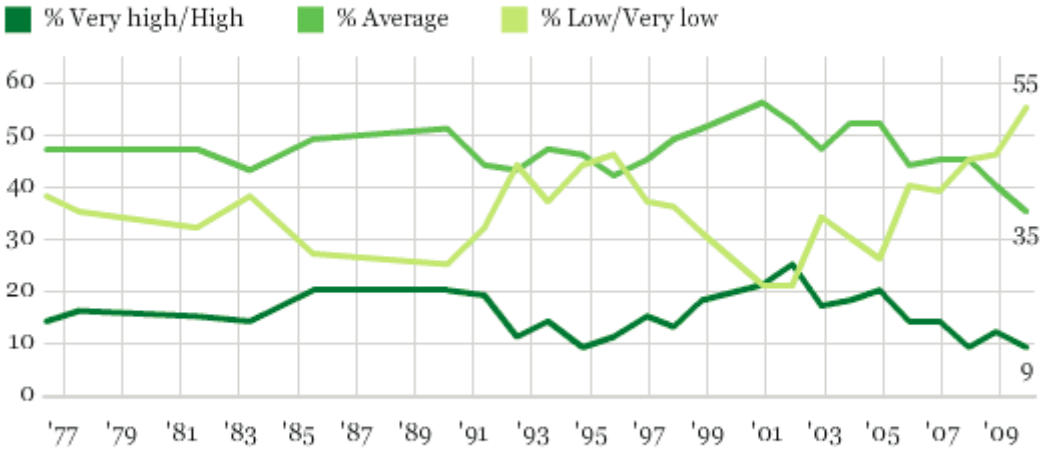
"The deterioration in Congress' ethics rating over the past year has occurred about equally among all three party groups."

A similar pattern occurred in the early 1990s, spanning a series of scandals starting with the "Keating Five" and the related savings and loan crisis, the House banking scandal, and the House

post office scandal that resulted in the conviction of Rep. Dan Rostenkowski in 1996. However the percentage "low"/"very low" rating during that period topped out at 46% in 1995, lower than today's figure. For most of the past two decades, more Americans have typically said the ethical standards of members of Congress are low than have called them high. However, the spread between these two views is now the widest seen.

Honesty and Ethical Standards of Members of Congress

Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields -- very high, high, average, low, or very low? How about ...members of Congress?*



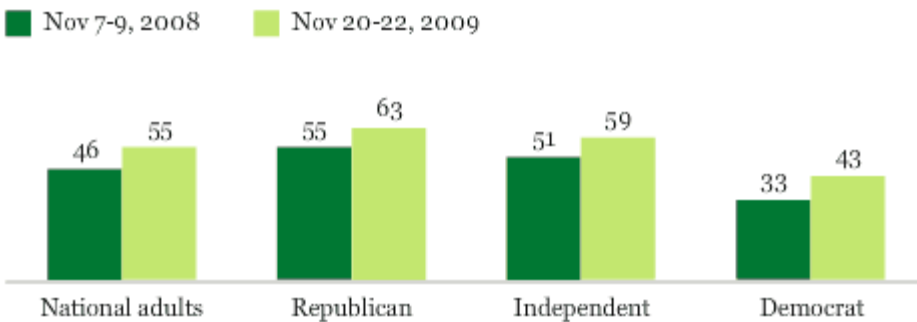
2009 wording split sampled with "Congressmen" (trend wording); combined results shown.

GALLUP®

The deterioration in Congress' ethics rating over the past year has occurred about equally among all three party groups. The percentage rating members' honesty and ethical standards as low or very low rose by 8 points among Republicans and independents, and by 10 points among Democrats.

Honesty and Ethics of Members of Congress, Trend by Party ID

% Low/Very low



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Pharmacists, Doctors, Police, and Engineers Also Well Regarded

Nurses are the undisputed leader in this year's list of professions -- and have ranked No. 1 all but one year since they were added to the list in 1999 ("firefighters" was asked as a special item in November 2001, and ranked first in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks). In addition to nurses, pharmacists, medical doctors, police, and engineers are all well regarded for their honesty and ethics by more than 6 in 10 Americans. Additionally, dentists, college teachers, and members of the clergy earn high marks from at least half of Americans.

Aside from members of Congress, the only other occupational group that the majority of Americans see as having low or very low honesty and ethical standards is car salespeople. At least 40% of Americans perceive several other professions as having low integrity, including senators, stockbrokers, HMO managers, insurance salespeople, and lawyers. Still, it should be noted that two professions not included on the list this year -- telemarketers and lobbyists -- received even lower ratings in 2008 (60% and 64% "poor" ethics ratings, respectively) than members of Congress do today.

The full list of 22 professions included on this year's list is ranked according to the percentage of Americans rating each profession's integrity as "very high" or "high."

Honesty and Ethical Standards of Professions

Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields -- very high, high, average, low, or very low?

| | Very high/ High | Average | Low/ very low | No opinion |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Nurses | 83 | 14 | 2 | 1 |
| Druggists or pharmacists | 66 | 29 | 5 | 1 |
| Medical doctors | 65 | 28 | 7 | 1 |
| Policemen/Police officers ^ | 63 | 26 | 10 | * |
| Engineers | 62 | 31 | 4 | 3 |
| Dentists | 57 | 35 | 7 | 1 |
| College teachers | 54 | 33 | 11 | 3 |
| Clergy | 50 | 36 | 10 | 4 |
| Chiropractors | 34 | 47 | 12 | 7 |
| Psychiatrists | 33 | 44 | 15 | 7 |
| Journalists | 23 | 45 | 31 | 1 |
| Bankers | 19 | 46 | 33 | 1 |
| State governors | 15 | 48 | 35 | 1 |
| Lawyers | 13 | 45 | 40 | 1 |
| Business executives | 12 | 48 | 38 | 2 |
| Advertising practitioners | 11 | 46 | 38 | 5 |
| Senators | 11 | 38 | 49 | 1 |
| Insurance salesmen/Insurance salespeople^ | 10 | 47 | 42 | 1 |
| Stockbrokers | 9 | 40 | 46 | 5 |
| Congressmen/Members of Congress^ | 9 | 35 | 55 | 1 |
| HMO managers | 8 | 40 | 43 | 8 |
| Car salesmen/Car salespeople^ | 6 | 40 | 51 | 2 |

Nov. 20-22, 2009

* less than 0.5%

^ Titles for profession based on split sample: Form A respondents asked first (long-term trend) wording, Form B respondents asked second wording. Combined results of both forms shown.

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Bottom Line

Congress has long ranked among the worst-rated professions on Gallup's annual Honesty and Ethics of Professions list. Now, it has earned the unwelcome distinction of having a majority of Americans rate its integrity as low or very low.

Americans are deeply concerned about the nation's economy, and eager to see the nation's leaders find meaningful solutions to that and other problems. But it's not clear that Congress' perceived lack of success is entirely to blame for its poor integrity ratings. While Congress has low job approval, the 26% of Americans currently approving is higher than the 19% recorded about this time last year. However, over the same period, Americans' rating of Congress' honesty and ethics, rather than showing analogous improvement, has in fact worsened, and not just among Republicans.

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.

U.S. Clergy, Bankers See New Lows in Honesty/Ethics Ratings

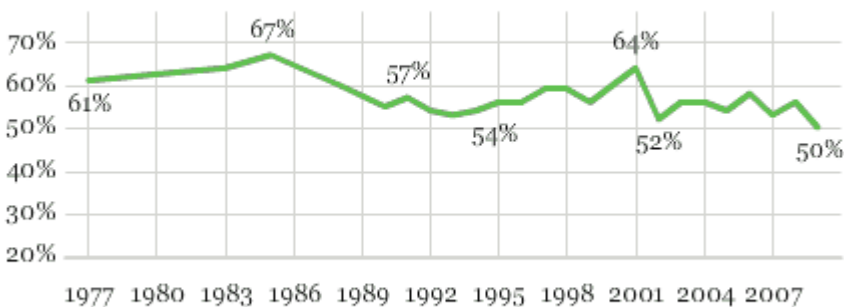
Police officers' image recovers

December 9, 2009

The percentage of Americans rating the honesty and ethics rating of clergy as very high or high is down to 50% in 2009, the lowest percentage it has been in the 32 years Gallup has measured it.

Ratings of Honesty and Ethics of the Clergy

% "Very high"/"High"



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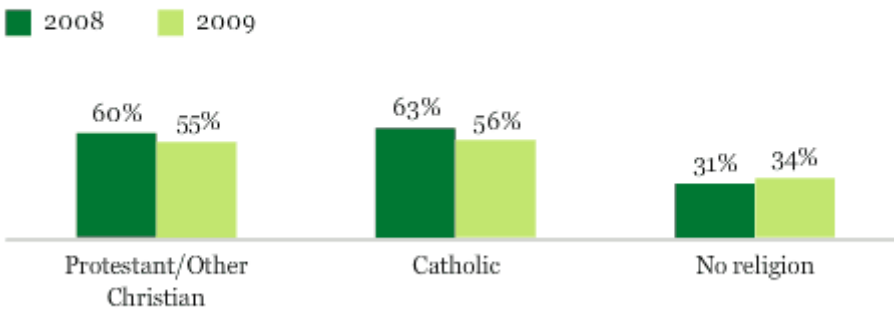
Gallup conducted its annual Honesty and Ethics of professions poll Nov. 20-22 this year, with one of the major findings the deterioration in ratings of members of Congress. Nurses continue to rate as the most highly regarded profession in terms of honesty and ethics.

"In addition to the clergy and bankers, ratings of stockbrokers have hit a new low, and ratings of business executives, members of Congress, and lawyers have tied their previous lows."

In last year's Honesty and Ethics update, 56% of Americans rated the clergy's honesty and ethics very high or high. The reason for the decline to 50% this year is unclear; but now the clergy's ratings are below where they were earlier this decade during the priest sex-abuse scandal. Ratings of the clergy dropped from their 2008 levels among both Catholics and Protestants, as well as among regular and non-regular churchgoers.

Ratings of Honesty and Ethics of the Clergy, by Religious Affiliation, 2008 and 2009

% "Very high"/"High"



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Ratings of Honesty and Ethics of the Clergy, by Church Attendance, 2008 and 2009

% "Very high"/"High"



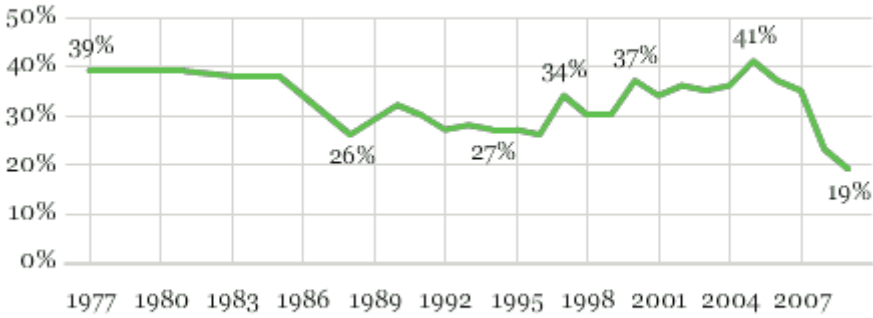
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Still, ratings of the clergy remain high on a relative basis, ranking 8th of the 22 professions tested this year. The same cannot be said of bankers, whose ratings tumbled last year from 35% to 23%

in the midst of the financial crisis, and fell further this year to a new low of 19%. As recently as 2005, 41% of Americans gave bankers high honesty and ethics ratings.

Ratings of Honesty and Ethics of Bankers

% "Very high"/"High"



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More broadly, 2009 was not a kind year in terms of how Americans rate members of various professions. In addition to the clergy and bankers, ratings of stockbrokers have hit a new low, and ratings of business executives, members of Congress, and lawyers have tied their previous lows.

Most of the 13 professions measured in both 2008 and 2009 show a decline, and only police officers' ratings improved by a meaningful amount. Ratings of clergy declined the most -- six points -- followed by lawyers, with a five-point drop.

Change in Honesty and Ethics Ratings of Professions, 2008 to 2009

% "Very high"/"High"

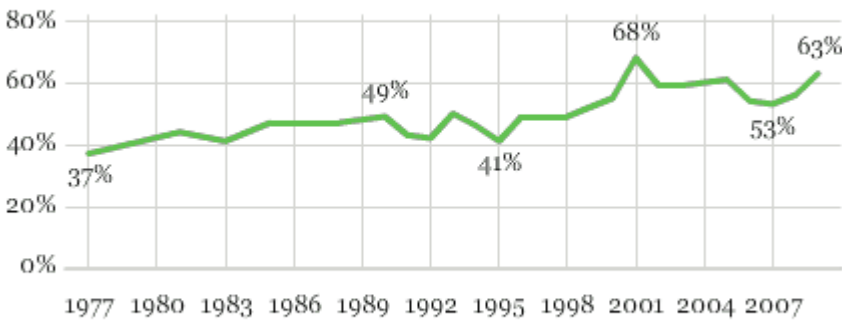
| | 2008 | 2009 | Change |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| | % | % | Pct. pts. |
| Police officers | 56 | 63 | 7 |
| Medical doctors | 64 | 65 | 1 |
| Advertising practitioners | 10 | 11 | 1 |
| Business executives | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Nurses | 84 | 83 | -1 |
| Car salespeople | 7 | 6 | -1 |
| Journalists | 25 | 23 | -2 |
| Members of Congress | 12 | 9 | -3 |
| Stockbrokers | 12 | 9 | -3 |
| Druggists, pharmacists | 70 | 66 | -4 |
| Bankers | 23 | 19 | -4 |
| Lawyers | 18 | 13 | -5 |
| Clergy | 56 | 50 | -6 |

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The 63% very high/high ratings for police officers are their best since 2001 -- shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks -- and the second highest in the 30+ years Gallup has asked about this profession. Over time, ratings of police officers have generally risen, though they were down below 60% the last three years.

Ratings of Honesty and Ethics of Police Officers

% "Very high"/"High"



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Until this year, Gallup had asked Americans to rate the honesty and ethics of "policemen," but this year conducted an experiment to see whether asking the gender-neutral phrasing "police

officers" would produce the same results. A random half of respondents were asked to rate "policemen," and the other half "police officers," with both wordings producing similar results (62% and 64%, respectively).

Gallup also found deterioration in the honesty ratings of several other professions that were last measured in 2006. The most notable decline occurred for state governors, whose ratings are down seven points, from 22% in 2006 to the current 15%. This change could in part be attributed to recent sex scandals involving former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and current South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford.

Change in Honesty and Ethics Ratings of Professions, 2006 to 2009

% "Very high"/"High"

| | 2006 | 2009 | Change |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| | % | % | Pct. pts. |
| Engineers | 61 | 62 | 1 |
| Chiropractors | 36 | 34 | -2 |
| Insurance salespeople | 13 | 10 | -3 |
| College teachers | 58 | 54 | -4 |
| Senators | 15 | 11 | -4 |
| HMO managers | 12 | 8 | -4 |
| Dentists | 62 | 57 | -5 |
| Psychiatrists | 38 | 33 | -5 |
| State governors | 22 | 15 | -7 |

Note: Professions rated in 2006 and 2009 only

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The new poll also documents significant decreases in the evaluated honesty of dentists and psychiatrists since 2006. Additionally, the four-point decline in ratings of senators over this time period leaves them with a new low rating, similar to the pattern Gallup reported earlier for members of Congress.

Bottom Line

Americans' ratings of the honesty and ethics of members working in several professions have established new lows in 2009, with the ratings of clergy and bankers lower now than at any other point in the last three-plus decades. And while Americans rate most professions more poorly than in their prior measurements, certain professions such as nurses, pharmacists, doctors, police officers, and engineers have maintained a high level of confidence from the American public.

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.

Most Americans Support Legalizing Marijuana

December 10, 2009

Many adults in the United States are willing to legalize marijuana, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents support this notion, while 43 per cent are opposed.

Less than 10 per cent of respondents support the legalization of other drugs, such as ecstasy, powder cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine or "crystal meth" and crack cocaine.

The use of marijuana is illegal in the U.S. except in some regulated cases of medical use. The amount allowed for such purposes varies depending on the state. Some states have passed laws to reduce law enforcement for possession of small amounts of the substance.

In May, Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, ruled out a push to legalize marijuana, adding, "I've never advocated legalization and certainly the president has made it clear that's his position."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?

| | Support | Oppose | Not sure |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Marijuana | 53% | 43% | 4% |
| Ecstasy | 8% | 88% | 4% |
| Powder cocaine | 8% | 89% | 3% |
| Heroin | 6% | 91% | 3% |
| Methamphetamine or "crystal meth" | 6% | 91% | 3% |
| Crack cocaine | 5% | 92% | 3% |

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 American voters, conducted on Dec. 3 and Dec. 4, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Americans Ponder New National Tea Party

December 09, 2009

A third of adults in the United States appear satisfied with the proposal to establish a third political party, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 32 per cent of respondents think the National Tea Party would be a good thing for the country.

Throughout 2009, numerous Tea Party protests have been held across the U.S. Attendants to these events have expressed dissatisfaction with specific policies, including the federal stimulus package, the possibility of a carbon emissions trading scheme, and proposed changes to the country's health care system. Several politicians—including former House of Representatives speaker Newt Gingrich and current Texas governor Rick Perry—have voiced support for the demonstrations.

Republican Minnesota congresswoman Michele Bachmann and former Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin are expected to take part in the National Tea Party convention in February 2010.

Last month, Bachmann discussed her views on the media, saying, "It seems like there's a double standard and bias in the mainstream media. Polls today say that the American people more than ever think the mainstream media is biased in favour of the liberal position. And so conservatives, especially conservative women, are held to a completely different standard than liberals."

Polling Data

Do you think it would be a good thing or a bad thing for the country if the National Tea Party became a third political party that ran its own candidates for office?

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Good thing | 32% |
| Bad thing | 13% |
| Not sure | 56% |

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,003 American adults, conducted on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Dominicans Review Prospective Candidates

December 11, 2009

The majority of people in the Dominican Republic want Miguel Vargas Maldonado to represent the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) in the next presidential election, according

to a poll by Gallup published in Hoy. 62 per cent of respondents say the PRD president should run for office in the 2012 ballot.

Former president Hipólito Mejía is preferred as the PRD candidate by eight per cent of the population, while four per cent choose PRD vice-president Luis Abinader.

As for the ruling Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), 28 per cent of respondents want current first lady Margarita Cedeño to become the presidential candidate, followed by former PLD president Danilo Medina with 24 per cent, former Dominican Republic vice-president Jaime David Fernández Mirabal with six per cent, current vice-president Rafael Alburquerque with three per cent, and interior minister Franklin Almeyda Rancier with only one per cent.

Amable Aristy Castro is the preferred candidate for the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) with 38 per cent, followed by foreign relations minister Carlos Morales Troncoso with 19 per cent, and former PRSC president Federico Antún Batlle with six per cent.

Dominicans elected a new president in May 2008. Final results gave the PLD's Leonel Fernández 53.83 per cent of all cast ballots, defeating the PRD's Maldonado.

Earlier this year, an online ad appeared showing the current first lady's picture with a caption which read: "With her, we continue with him. Dr. Margarita Cedeño President 2012-2016." The president's wife has not confirmed whether she intends to run for office.

Polling Data

Who would you prefer as the presidential candidate for the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD)?

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Margarita Cedeño | 28% |
| Danilo Medina | 24% |
| Jaime David Fernández Mirabal | 6% |
| Rafael Alburquerque | 3% |
| Franklin Almeyda Rancier | 1% |

Who would you prefer as the presidential candidate for the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD)?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Miguel Vargas Maldonado | 62% |
| Hipólito Mejía | 8% |
| Luis Abinader | 4% |

Who would you prefer as the presidential candidate for the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC)?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Amable Aristy Castro | 38% |
| Carlos Morales Troncoso | 19% |

Federico Antún Batlle

6%

Source: Gallup / Hoy

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,200 Dominican adults, conducted from Nov. 16 to Nov. 22, 2009. Margin of error is 2.9 per cent.

Mexicans Reject Re-election of Legislators

December 08, 2009

Most adults in Mexico believe the members of the Chamber of Deputies should not be eligible for re-election, according to a poll by *Reforma*. 68 per cent of respondents reject this possibility, while only 19 per cent would endorse it.

Vicente Fox—of the National Action Party (PAN)—ended 71 years of uninterrupted rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in the 2000 presidential election, winning a six-year term with 42.5 per cent of the vote.

Mexican voters chose their new president in July 2006. Official results placed the PAN's Felipe Calderón as the winner with 36.68 per cent of all cast ballots. Calderón—a former energy secretary—took over as Mexico's head of state in December.

In October 1910, a month before the start of the Mexican Revolution to topple dictator Porfirio Díaz, Francisco Madero wrote the Plan of San Luis, which included the phrase "Effective suffrage. No re-election." The phrase is still included in most official documents issued by Mexican governments. Madero went on to serve as Mexico's president from November 1911 to February 1913, when he was deposed by armed forces commander Victoriano Huerta.

Consecutive re-election—either for the president or federal and state lawmakers—has not been allowed in Mexico since 1917. While presidential re-election remains out of the question, some Mexican politicians have recently called for amendments to allow legislators to serve a consecutive term. The government is currently studying an electoral reform that could include a clause to allow for the re-election of members of Congress.

On Dec. 4, PRI senator Manlio Fabio Beltrones urged for a deeper discussion on the current guidelines, adding, "We are certain that the possibility of a constitutional referendum empowers people and allows for swifter decisions, especially in topics that are controversial."

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with the re-election of members of the Chamber of Deputies?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Agree | 19% |
| Disagree | 68% |
| Not sure | 13% |

Source: *Reforma*

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,515 Mexican registered voters, conducted from Nov. 20 to Nov. 22, 2009. Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

Nicaraguans Dread Potential Ortega Re-Election

December 07, 2009

Most people in Nicaragua think the re-election of Daniel Ortega would be a negative development in the country, according to a poll by CID-Gallup published in *La Prensa*. 58 per cent of respondents share this opinion, while 36 per cent say a new Ortega term would be positive

In November 2006, Ortega—a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)—won the presidential election with 37.99 per cent of all cast ballots. Presidential candidates in Nicaragua are not compelled to garner more than 50 per cent of the vote in order to win the election.

Ortega governed from 1985 to 1990, but was a losing candidate in the 1990, 1996 and 2001 ballots. In January 2007, he was sworn in for a five-year term.

Consecutive presidential re-election is currently not permitted in Nicaragua. Since 1995, presidential re-election in the Central American country is only allowed once and in non-consecutive terms. Ortega has repeatedly suggested that the five-year presidential term is too short and that the current law, enshrined in the constitution, should be revised.

On Oct. 5, the opposition Liberal Constitutionalist Party (PLC) denounced Ortega for allegedly trying to "control" the Supreme Court in order to introduce an amendment to the Constitution that would allow him to run in the 2011 presidential election.

On Dec. 3, lawmakers voted to reject a ruling by the Supreme Court ending a ban on consecutive presidential re-election. In a statement, the Legislative branch said it had decided to "reject and deny" the "pseudo-ruling" by the Supreme Court, and that it would therefore treat it as "non-existent."

The legislature is now set for a confrontation with the Nicaraguan electoral body, which has said that the Supreme Court's decision is final.

Polling Data

Do you think the impact of Daniel Ortega's re-election would be positive or negative?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Positive | 36% |
| Negative | 58% |
| Not sure | 6% |

Source: CID-Gallup / La Prensa

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,253 Nicaraguan adults, conducted from Nov. 4 to Nov. 11, 2009. Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Poll Finds Most Publics Around the World Want Their Governments to Be More Cooperative

December 9, 2009

Most See US as Cooperative

As the European Union implements a new treaty aimed at helping member countries work together, and as President Barack Obama prepares to receive a Nobel Prize awarded partly for his efforts at international cooperation, a WorldPublicOpinion.org poll of people in 21 nations around the world finds that publics in 14 of them think their governments should be more ready to cooperate with others to achieve mutual gains.

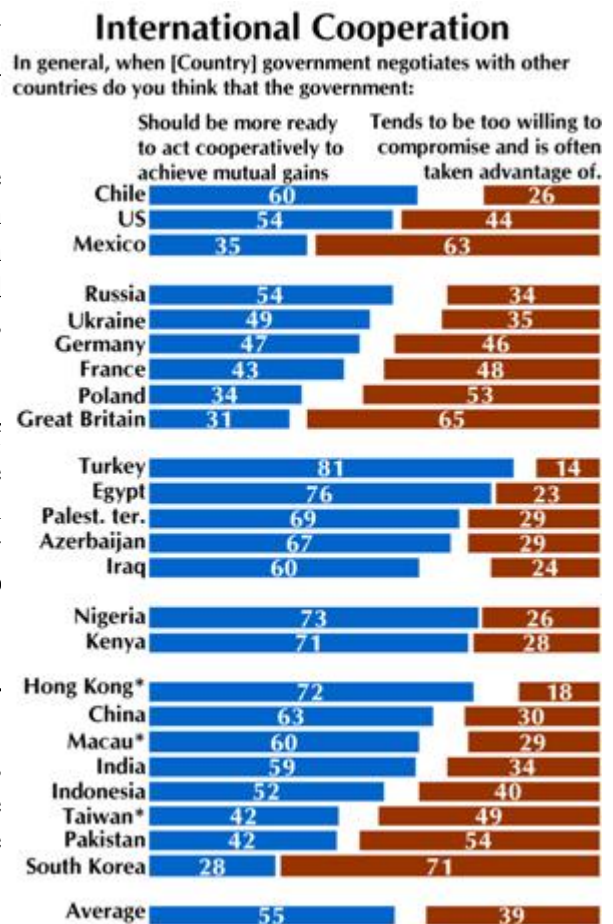
However, in six nations more people demur and say that their government tends to be too willing to compromise and is often taken advantage of.

The release of the poll's findings come at a time when international cooperation figures prominently in the news. World leaders are gathering in Copenhagen to consider cooperative options for addressing climate change. In Europe, the new Lisbon Treaty took effect on Tuesday which is meant to draw European countries into a more highly integrated union.

President Obama, meanwhile, will receive the Nobel Peace Prize on Dec. 10, which he won largely for taking a more cooperative stance with the rest of the world. And indeed the poll found that in 15 of 19 nations the US is now seen as generally cooperative.

On average across all nations surveyed, 55% of those polled believe that their leaders "should be more ready to act cooperatively to achieve mutual gains." Thirty-nine percent of those polled say their governments tend to be "too willing to compromise and are often taken advantage of."

The poll shows the highest levels of support for greater cooperation are among Turks (81%), Egyptians (76%), Nigerians (73%). Palestinians are also among the highest (69%), a positive indicator for potential Middle East peace negotiations.



Publics calling for greater cooperation also are found in the largest and most powerful countries, including Americans (54%), Chinese (63%), Russians (54%) and Indians (59%). Though Indians favor greater cooperation, only 42 percent of Pakistanis say the same.

Interestingly, the most distinct cluster of nations with low numbers calling for greater cooperation are in the EU. Less than half feel their government should be more cooperative in Britain (31%), Poland (34%), France (43%), and Germany (47%). This may be because they feel that they are already cooperative enough, especially in the context of the EU and in their relations with the United States.

Very large numbers feel that their country tends to be too willing to compromise and is often taken advantage of in Mexico (63%) and South Korea (71%). This may be due to their close relationship with the United States in which America clearly plays the dominant role.

Large majorities favor greater cooperation in Hong Kong (72%) and Macao (60%), but only 42 percent feel that way in Taiwan.

WorldPublicOpinion.org conducted the poll of 20,349 respondents in 21 nations that comprise 64 percent of the world's population. This includes most of the largest nations--China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Russia--as well as Mexico, Chile, Germany, Great Britain, France, Poland, Ukraine, Kenya, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, the Palestinian territories, and South Korea. Polling was also conducted in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. Not all questions were asked to all nations. The margins of error range from +/-3 to 4 percentage points. The surveys were conducted across the different nations between April 4 and July 9, 2009.

WorldPublicOpinion.org, a collaborative project involving research centers from around the world, is managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland.

Assessment of US Cooperativeness

Asked to assess whether the United States is generally cooperative in its relations with other countries, publics in 15 of the 19 nations said that the US is generally cooperative, with an average of 59 percent saying that it is cooperative and 30 percent saying it is not.

"Clearly President Obama has turned the tide in the image of the US as a leader in the world. When Obama called for greater cooperation at the UN, most people saw the US as ready to carry its share of the water," comments Steven Kull, director of WPO. The only nations to say that the US is not cooperative all have Muslim majorities: Egypt (62%), Iraq (58%), Pakistan (54%), and Turkey (45%). Interestingly, the governments of all four of these nations have close working relations with the US.

Assessment of China's Cooperativeness

Asked to assess whether China is generally cooperative, views are more mixed but still predominantly positive. Eleven nations rate China as cooperative, seven as not cooperative, and one is divided. On average, 53% say they think China is generally cooperating with other countries, and 35% say they do not think so.

China's overall cooperation with other nations draws a positive response from a majority of respondents around the world. Outside China, the strongest support came again from Pakistan, where 94% say they think China is cooperative, followed by Azerbaijan with 89% and Ukraine with 81%. The strongest negative response was from South Korea, where 68% of respondents do not think China is cooperative, followed by Great Britain with 66% and France with 63%. Sixty-one percent of Americans say China does not cooperate.

In China, 63% of those polled on the mainland say their government should be more open to international cooperation.

Climate Concerns Continue to Increase: Global Poll

Public concern about climate change is at its highest level since GlobeScan began international tracking in 1998, according to a new GlobeScan/BBC World Service poll conducted in 23 countries. Nearly two thirds of those polled now say climate change is a “very serious” problem. However, concern has fallen in China and the USA.

On the eve of the UN climate change summit in Copenhagen, only six per cent of the 24,000 people polled want their government to oppose a climate deal being reached in Denmark.

The poll also shows that, in spite of the global recession, an average of 61% support their governments making investments to address climate change, even if these investments hurt the economy.

However, the poll finds that public opinion in the world's two largest emitters of CO₂ is more ambivalent. While the Chinese are the most likely to support government investments to address climate change even if these harm the economy (with 89% in favour), only 52% of Americans feel the same way. Also, the percentage of American (45%) and Chinese citizens (57%) who see climate change as “very serious” is below the 23-country average of 64%.

The overall results show that there is strong support for governments taking an ambitious approach to the Copenhagen negotiations. On average, 44%—and majorities in 10 of the 23 countries polled—say they want their government to “play a leading role in setting ambitious targets to address climate change” at Copenhagen. A further 39% think their government should “adopt a more moderate approach and support only gradual action.” Only six per cent want their government to oppose any agreement.

Majorities in major European nations support their government playing a strong leadership role in Copenhagen—62% in the UK, 57% in France, and 55% in Germany. Other governments

being pressed by their citizens to show leadership include Canada (61%), Australia (57%), Japan (57%), and Brazil (53%).

In comparison, Chinese opinion about Copenhagen favours a “moderate approach” involving “only gradual action” (49%) over a “leadership approach” (37%). In the United States, 36% favour a “moderate approach” and 14% oppose any agreement, outweighing the 46% of Americans who want their government to show leadership.

The results are drawn from a survey of 24,071 adult citizens in 23 countries, conducted by the international polling firm GlobeScan between 19 June and 13 October, 2009.

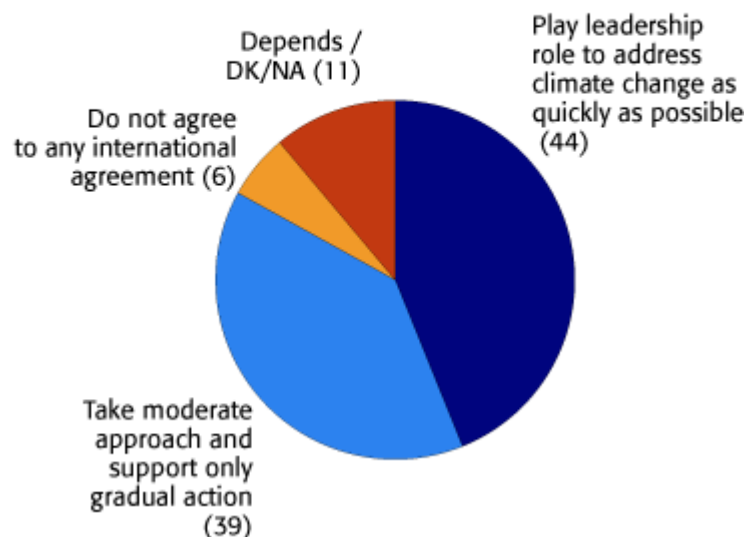
GlobeScan Chairman Doug Miller commented: “The poll shows strong worldwide support for action on climate change, in spite of the recession. However, the mixed opinions in the United States and China suggest leadership in Copenhagen may need to come from others.”

Detailed Findings

The UK, Canada, and Kenya are the countries whose citizens are keenest for their governments to play leadership roles in setting ambitious targets at the summit (UK 62%, Canada and Kenya each 61%). Otherwise, developing countries are generally more cautious in the approach they are looking for their government to play—only around a third in countries like Pakistan and the Philippines (each 36%), or India (33%), and even fewer in Indonesia (23%), support their governments seeking ambitious targets in Copenhagen.

Outright opposition to a deal is limited to small minorities in all survey countries. The countries with the highest proportions of those opposing any international agreement are the United States (14%), Brazil (12%), and Pakistan (12%).

Preferred Country Strategy at Copenhagen Summit
Average of 23 Countries, 2009



In 19 of 23 countries polled,

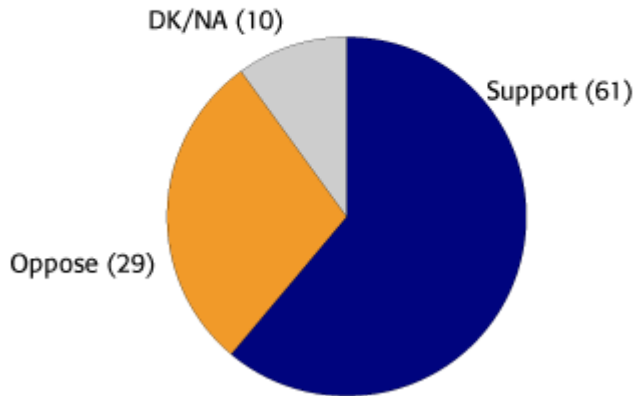
including all developed nations, there is majority support for government investments to address climate change, including investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and public transport, even if these hurt the economy. The exceptions are Pakistan, where only 19% would support such investments in these circumstances, the Philippines (32%), Indonesia (38%), and Turkey (49%). After China (89%), the countries where the largest majorities support government investments to address climate change, even where these would cause economic harm, are Kenya (77%), France (75%), Mexico (71%), Australia (70%), and the UK (70%).

The countries with the largest proportions supporting government action are not always those with the highest proportions regarding climate change as very serious. Brazil (86% “very serious”), Costa Rica (83%), the Philippines (83%), and Turkey (81%) appear to be most convinced of the magnitude of the climate change problem. Despite Kenyans’ enthusiasm for government investment, a lower than average proportion (52%) regard climate change as a “very serious” problem.

The survey also finds that concern about climate change continues on an upward trend, even in a recession year. Thirteen of the countries in this year’s survey have been polled regularly by GlobeScan over the last eleven years on their views of climate change: since 1998, the proportion rating it as a “very serious” issue for the world has climbed from 44% to 63%.

Support for Government Investment to Address Climate Change, Even If It Hurts the Economy

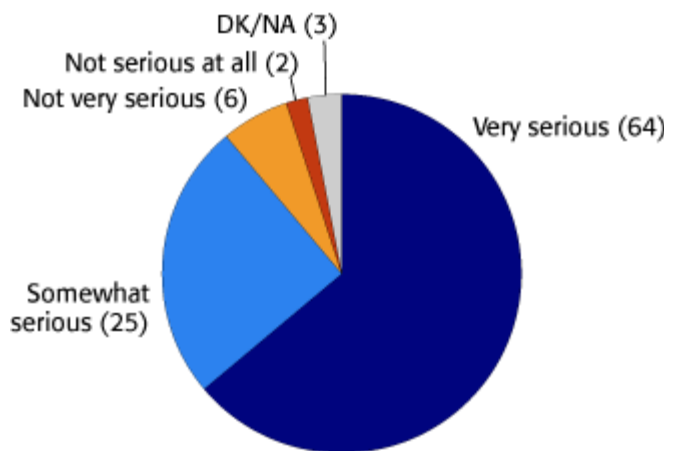
Average of 23 Countries, 2009



Asked of half of sample

Seriousness of Climate Change

Average of 23 Countries, 2009



In total 24,071 citizens in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America were interviewed face-to-face or by telephone between 19 June and 13 October, 2009 (the exception being Japan where the fieldwork was conducted online). Polling was conducted for BBC World Service by GlobeScan and its research partners in each country. The margin of error per country ranges from +/-2.2 to 4.9 per cent, 19 times out of 20.
