

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 149

Week: December 05-11, 2010

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- Conservatives Keep Lead in Canada as Liberal Voters Ponder Change
- Saskatchewan People Rank Global Poverty as Top Global Issue

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- U.S. Leadership Ratings Suffer in Latin America (Multi-country survey)

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- Large swing against the ALP 45% (down 7.5%) to L-NP 55% (up 7.5%)

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- Half of Americans Condemn WikiLeaks Release; Britons and Canadians Split
- U.S. Approval Stable at 50% in European Union
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- Students in Europe Negative About World Situation

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- Blogs and Twitter Talk WikiLeaks
- WikiLeaks Data Dump Drives News

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This week report consists of 31 surveys. Six of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 25 are national surveys from various countries.



Topic of the week:
Nigerians Ready to Pay More for Improved Power Supply

This page is devoted to opinions of countries whose polling activity is generally not known very widely or where a recent topical issue requires special attention .

Commentary. *Noi Power Sector Survey:*



Abuja, Nigeria. November 10, 2010: An overwhelming proportion of Nigerians are willing to pay more for electricity if they can get the preferred level of power supply they desire. Also a significant percentage of Nigerians consider availability of power to be the most important priority in power supply, irrespective of who the supplier is and many people report an improvement in their power supply over the past months.

These are some of the key findings distilled from the Nigerian Power Sector Poll, a survey conducted in three waves, between June 2010 and September 2010 by NOI Polls; the country's leading opinion polling organisation in partnership with the Nigerian Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF). The special survey was designed to track and assess the opinions, attitudes and preferences of Nigerians on the current state of electricity supply in the country against the

background of the ongoing efforts of the Federal Government to implement far reaching reforms.

The findings make it clear that the nation's poor track record in this critical area continues to attract deep public concern over the inadequacy of supply which has persisted in spite of the well advertised efforts of successive governments to improve the poor level of generation and distribution. Previous surveys by NOI Polls have shown that most Nigerians would like to see governments at all levels to focus on achieving a significant improvement in the current poor and irregular level of electricity supply which has persisted for so long.



The power sector survey revealed that about 96% of Nigerians would pay more if supply improves to the degree they want.

A Summary of the key findings:

- Majority of Nigerians still rate the government poorly in terms of provision of electricity.
- About 1 in 2 respondents have experienced changes in electricity supply to their households within the timeframe of the survey.
- The majority of those who experienced changes in the supply of electricity consider the change as an improvement.
- Most respondents believe that the government is responsible for the improvement in the supply of light.
- Most Nigerians would prefer 24-hour uninterrupted power supply.

- Majority of Nigerians would consider paying more than current prices if they are supplied with power for the periods and duration of their preference.
- Nigerians consider the availability of power as their top most priority with regards to the supply of electricity.
- Overall, there has been noticeable reduction in the governments 'very poor' performance rating, from the first wave to the third wave of the survey.
- More people have experienced an improvement in their power supply in recent times compared to the start of the survey.
- Significantly more people attribute the improvement in power supply to the government in subsequent waves than in previous waves of the survey.
- In addition, there are more people willing to pay for improved services than there were at the start of the survey. §



SOURCE: <http://www.noi-polls.net/Poll-Results/noi-power-sector-survey-nov-2010.html>

SUMMARY OF POLLS

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

85% Believe That Having Children Is Essential To Lead A Pleasant Life

According to Gallup Pakistan survey over 8 in 10 Pakistanis believe that having children is very important for a pleasant life. This is a slight change from 9 years back, in 2001; a similar Gallup and Gilani poll had found that 90% believed that children were essential to lead a happy life. (Gallup Pakistan)

December 9, 2010

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

Nigerians Ready to Pay More for Improved Power Supply

An overwhelming proportion of Nigerians are willing to pay more for electricity if they can get the preferred level of power supply they desire. Also a significant percentage of Nigerians consider availability of power to be the most important priority in power supply, irrespective of who the supplier is and many people report an improvement in their power supply over the past months. (NOI POLLS)

November 10, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Ban On Night Sales Of Alcohol: For And Against

Every fifth Russian has happened to buy alcohol at night over the recent year (22%). Basically they are metropolitan residents (34%), men (31%), Russians aged younger than 35 (29-31%), respondents with high level of income (30%), and those who often drink alcohol (41%). Just under two in ten oppose such an initiative. (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)

November 23, 2010

WEST EUROPE

(UK) Liberal Democrat support dropping dramatically in some regions

As controversy over Liberal Democrat support for the government's policy on university tuition fees reaches a peak, Ipsos MORI's aggregate analysis of their monthly polls since the general election shows that support has swung from the Liberal Democrats to Labour across the country, but much more sharply in some regions than in others. (Ipsos Mori)

December 09, 2010

(UK) Trade Confidence Hits An 8 Month High

Importers and exporters confidence soared in November, after it was revealed that trade played a large part in boosting UK economic growth in the third quarter of 2010. Its highest level in 8 months, the Travelex Confidence Index rose 8 points during November to stand at 112. Importer & exporter confidence surged unexpectedly as 70% said they felt confident about current trade conditions. (TNS)

December 07, 2010

Almost Half of Britons Would Vote to Abandon European Union

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,002 British adults, three-in-five respondents (59%) say EU membership has been moderately negative (30%) or very negative (29%) for the United Kingdom. (Angus-Reid)

December 06, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

In U.S., Working Caregivers Face Wellbeing Challenges

Americans who work a full-time job and say they care for an elderly or disabled family member, relative, or friend -- 16% of the full-time workforce -- suffer from lower wellbeing than those who work a full-time job but do not have additional caregiving responsibilities. Caregivers' 66.4 overall wellbeing score is significantly lower than the 70.2 among non-caregivers. (Gallup USA)

December 8, 2010

Americans Support Two Major Elements of Tax Compromise

Two major elements included in the tax agreement reached Monday between President Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress meet with broad public support. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) favor extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all Americans for two years, and an identical number support extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed. (Gallup USA)

December 8, 2010

Despite Changed Environment, American Investors Uphold Strategy

Despite the economic crisis in the United States which began (per the National Bureau of Economic Research) in December of 2007, only one in five U.S. adults say they have changed their investment strategy recently, compared to a few years ago (21%)-17% say

they have shifted toward more conservative or stable investments and very small numbers say they have shifted toward more aggressive or volatile investments (4%). (Harris interactive)

December 8, 2010

One Nation Divided Over Health-Care Reform

Americans remain deeply divided over the nation's new health-care reform package, with 40 percent of adults wanting to repeal all or most of the legislation while 31 percent favor keeping all or most of the reforms. Another 29 percent aren't sure what should be done. (*Harris Interactive*)

December 6, 2010

Republican Having A Slight Edge Over Democrats

Ipsos' December poll for Reuters shows that public opinion towards the Republican Party has recovered from 2008's low ratings, with 45% now favorable and 48% unfavorable towards the Republicans. The Democrats' ratings have dropped notably since their post-2008 election high of 61%, and are now on 43% favorable and 51% unfavorable. (Ipsos US)

December 07, 2010

Obama Approval Rating Holding Steady Since Midterms

President Barack Obama's job approval rating has held steady in the mid-40% range since the midterm elections last month. His average rating for the week leading up to the midterms was 45%, and it has remained close to that, including a 46% rating for the week of Nov. 29-Dec. 5. (Gallup USA)

December 7, 2010

In U.S., Majority Supports Ratification of START Treaty

If given the opportunity to vote on the matter, 51% of Americans would ratify the START nuclear arms agreement with Russia and 30% would vote against it, while 19% are undecided. (Gallup USA)

December 10, 2010

Slim Majority of Americans Would Vote for DREAM Act Law

Americans are more likely to say they would vote for than against a law that would grant legal status to illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children if they join the military or attend college. This is the major thrust of the DREAM Act legislation Congress is now considering to provide a path to citizenship for thousands of young adults living in the United States illegally. (Gallup USA)

December 10, 2010

In U.S., 67% Support Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Lawmakers seeking to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy have a large majority of Americans behind them. If they had an opportunity to vote on it, 67% of Americans say they would vote for a law that would allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military. (Gallup USA)

December 9, 2010

Deficit Solutions Meet With Public Skepticism

In many respects, there is a broad public consensus when it comes to the federal budget deficit: seven-in-ten say it is a major problem that must be addressed right away, and roughly two-thirds say that the best way to reduce the deficit is through a combination of cutting major government programs and increasing taxes. (Pew Research Center)

December 9, 2010

Voters Say Election Full of Misleading and False Information

Following the first election since the Supreme Court has struck down limits on election-related advertising, a new poll finds that 9 in 10 voters said that in the 2010 election they encountered information they believed was misleading or false, with 56% saying this occurred frequently. (PIPA)

December 9, 2010

Nurses Top Honesty and Ethics List for 11th Year

Nurses continue to outrank other professions in Gallup's annual Honesty and Ethics survey. Eighty-one percent of Americans say nurses have "very high" or "high" honesty and ethical standards, a significantly greater percentage than for the next-highest-rated professions, military officers and pharmacists. Americans rate car salespeople, lobbyists, and members of Congress as having the lowest honesty and ethics, with the last two getting a majority of "low" or "very low" ratings. (Gallup USA)

December 3, 2010

Kennedy Still Highest-Rated Modern President, Nixon Lowest

Of the nine U.S. presidents who have served in the past 50 years, John F. Kennedy continues to earn the highest retrospective job approval rating from Americans, now 85%. Ronald Reagan ranks second, with 74%. While these presidents' ratings are largely unchanged from 2006, Bill Clinton's rating has improved, putting him in third place, while Jimmy Carter, at 52%, has dropped from third to sixth. Richard Nixon remains the lowest rated.

December 6, 2010

Mission in Afghanistan Still Divides Views in the United States

Almost half of respondents mistakenly believe that more than 2,000 American soldiers have died in the military operation (Angus-Reid)

December 06, 2010

Conservatives Keep Lead in Canada as Liberal Voters Ponder Change

While large majorities of Tory and NDP supporters are content with Stephen Harper and Jack Layton, only 38 per cent of Liberal voters in 2008 would keep Michael Ignatieff at the helm (Angus-Reid)

December 08, 2010

Saskatchewan People Rank Global Poverty as Top Global Issue

Large majority of respondents in the Canadian province are also eager to help alleviate poverty in the world. (Angus-Reid)

December 08, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

U.S. Leadership Ratings Suffer in Latin America (Multi-country survey)

U.S. leadership approval fell significantly in half of the 18 Latin American countries Gallup surveyed in 2010, taking the largest hits in Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, and Honduras. Approval did not change significantly in the other half. After an initial surge when President Barack Obama took office, median approval fell to 44% in 2010 from 51% in 2009, but still remains up from 35% in 2008. (Gallup USA)

December 10, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

Large swing against the ALP 45% (down 7.5%) to L-NP 55% (up 7.5%)

In the first poll conducted since the 'Wikileaks', the telephone Morgan Poll finds support for the ALP has slumped 7.5%. On a two party preferred basis ALP support is now 45% to L-NP's 55%. (Roy Morgan)

December 10, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Half of Americans Condemn WikiLeaks Release; Britons and Canadians Split

People in the three countries think the release of classified cables will damage diplomatic relations between the U.S. and other countries. (Angus-Reid)

December 09, 2010

U.S. Approval Stable at 50% in European Union

While the honeymoon period after President Barack Obama's election ended in some parts of the world this year, median U.S. leadership approval remained stable at about 50% in the European Union between 2009 and 2010. Approval did drop significantly in 2010, however, in countries where the effects of the global financial and economic crisis remain severe, including Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. (Gallup USA)

December 7, 2010

Corruption Is World's Most Talked About Problem

Corruption is the world's most frequently discussed global problem, according to a new BBC poll surveying more than 13,000 people across 26 countries. The findings show that more than one in five (21%) of those polled said they had discussed corruption and greed with friends and family over the past month, making it the most talked about global problem, ahead of climate change (20%), extreme poverty and hunger (18%), unemployment (16%), and the rising cost of food and energy (15%). (Globescan)

December 09, 2010

Environmental Concern, Not Economy, Top Issue Facing Mining Industry: Global Poll

A recent global survey confirms that environmental concerns (40%), closely followed by social concerns (28%), continue to be the top sustainable development issues for the mining and metals industry agenda. (Globescan)

December 07, 2010

Students in Europe Negative About World Situation

University students in the six European countries surveyed have a negative view of the world situation. However they see their personal situation in a positive light, and are generally upbeat about their employment prospects. (IPSOS MORI)

December 2, 2010

CYBERWORLD

Blogs and Twitter Talk WikiLeaks

The raging controversy over the leak of classified State Department cables generated major attention in both the blogosphere and Twitter last week. The responses highlight the differing emphases of bloggers and Twitter users. (Pew Research Center)

December 9, 2010

WikiLeaks Data Dump Drives News

Two topics dominated the news agenda last week. Attention to the economy reached its highest level in 20 months and a major document dump cemented WikiLeaks' status as a significant newsmaker.

December 7, 2010

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

85% Believe That Having Children Is Essential To Lead A Pleasant Life

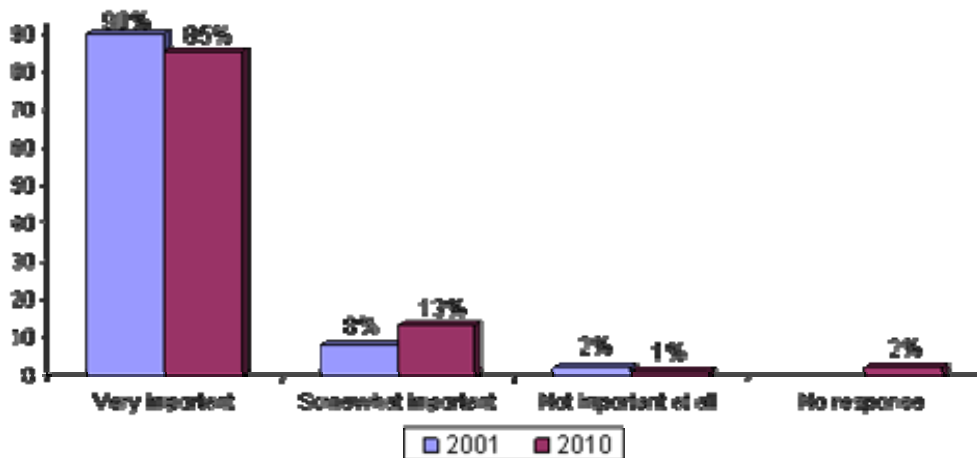
Islamabad, December 9, 2010

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan , 85% believe that having children is very important for a pleasant life. This is a slight change from 9 years back, in 2001; a similar Gallup and Gilani poll had found that 90% believed that children were essential to lead a happy life.

In two different surveys, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked the following question: *“In your opinion how important are having children for a pleasant life?”* In 2010 85% say it very important, 13% believe important to some extent, 1% consider children to be not important at all. 2% gave no response. The comparable figures in response to the same question in 2001 were: 90% said children are very important, 8% important to some extent and 2% not important at all.

A detailed analysis of the recent data showed that more of the ruralites (89%) believe that children are very important for leading a pleasant life as compared to their urban counter parts (79%). There was no significant difference in the opinion by gender. It can also be seen that with age the perception that children are important for a pleasant life increases. 82% of the under 30 and 90% of over 51 years believed in this notion.

“In your opinion how important are having children for a pleasant life?”



The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan , the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The recent survey was carried out among a sample of 2711 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during November 2010. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Nigerians Ready to Pay More for Improved Power Supply

Noi Power Sector Survey:

Abuja, Nigeria. November 10, 2010: An overwhelming proportion of Nigerians are willing to pay more for electricity if they can get the preferred level of power supply they desire. Also a significant percentage of Nigerians consider availability of power to be the most important priority in power supply, irrespective of who the supplier is and many people report an improvement in their power supply over the past months.

These are some of the key findings distilled from the Nigerian Power Sector Poll, a survey conducted in three waves, between June 2010 and September 2010 by NOI Polls; the country's leading opinion polling organisation in partnership with the Nigerian Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF). The special survey was designed to track and assess the opinions, attitudes and preferences of Nigerians on the current state of electricity supply in the country against the background of the ongoing efforts of the Federal Government to implement far reaching reforms.

The findings make it clear that the nation's poor track record in this critical area continues to attract deep public concern over the inadequacy of supply which has persisted in spite of the well advertised efforts of successive governments to improve the poor level of generation and distribution. Previous surveys by NOI Polls have shown that most Nigerians would like to see governments at all levels to focus on achieving a significant improvement in the current poor and irregular level of electricity supply which has persisted for so long.

The power sector survey revealed that about 96% of Nigerians would pay more if supply improves to the degree they want.

To the question "if you were to be provided electricity for any specific period/time of the day, which of the following periods would you prefer?", the highest proportion of respondents - 42% - said they preferred night time supply. Comparatively, 25% said they prefer 24-hr supply; 14% opted for "some hours during each period".

Another key finding is that three out of four Nigerians (75%) consider availability of supply the most important priority in power supply. 18% ranked predictable supply as their most important priority while 6% put Customer service ahead of other considerations. Significantly, price was the least important consideration in the estimation of the respondents with only 1% giving it a thumbs-up.

Responses to the question "Has there been any changes in light/power/electricity supply to your household in the last two months?" showed that a majority of Nigerians believe that they have experienced some change within the period. 59% of the respondents answered "Yes". Another significant proportion – 40% - said there was no change in the supply to their household.

Significantly of those that saw a change in their power supply 90% report an improvement. A summary of the key findings:

- Majority of Nigerians still rate the government poorly in terms of provision of electricity.

- About 1 in 2 respondents have experienced changes in electricity supply to their households within the timeframe of the survey.
- The majority of those who experienced changes in the supply of electricity consider the change as an improvement.
- Most respondents believe that the government is responsible for the improvement in the supply of light.
- Most Nigerians would prefer 24-hour uninterrupted power supply.
- Majority of Nigerians would consider paying more than current prices if they are supplied with power for the periods and duration of their preference.
- Nigerians consider the availability of power as their top most priority with regards to the supply of electricity.
- Overall, there has been noticeable reduction in the governments 'very poor' performance rating, from the first wave to the third wave of the survey.
- More people have experienced an improvement in their power supply in recent times compared to the start of the survey.
- Significantly more people attribute the improvement in power supply to the government in subsequent waves than in previous waves of the survey.
- In addition, there are more people willing to pay for improved services than there were at the start of the survey.

ABOUT NOI POLLS LTD

NOI Polls is an opinion polling and market research organisation in Nigeria that provides timely and relevant information on people's perspectives on a variety of social and economic issues. Founded in November 2006, the goal was to establish a premier opinion research firm in Nigeria which periodically provided a barometer of public opinion on a range of social and economic issues. NOI Polls conducts scientific periodic opinion polls in Nigeria in partnership with Gallup Poll (USA), the leading polling and opinion research organization in the world. Principal officers from Gallup are actively involved in the technical aspect of the polls.

Our Methodology

NOI Polls is committed to employing the highest standards of statistical analysis in its polls. It utilizes the well-established survey methodologies, including scientifically tested sampling techniques designed by The Gallup Organization. NOI-Gallup Poll is administered with the Gallup World Poll and the analyses are conducted by a joint team of researchers. As such, the poll benefits from both Gallup's technical rigour and NOI Polls' knowledge and experience of the Nigerian context.

EAST EUROPE

23.11.2010

Ban On Night Sales Of Alcohol: For And Against

22% of Russians have happened to buy alcohol at night over the recent year. Only 17% of Russians oppose such an initiative.

MOSCOW, November 23, 2010. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the information describing if Russians happen to buy alcohol at night, and whether they support the ban on night sales of alcohol.

Every fifth Russian has happened to buy alcohol at night over the recent year (22%). Basically they are metropolitan residents (34%), men (31%), Russians aged younger than 35 (29-31%), respondents with high level of income (30%), and those who often drink alcohol (41%). Seventy six percent did not happen to do so: mainly they are residents of middle cities (82%), women (84%), elderly persons (89%), respondents with low level of income (82%), and Russians who rarely drink alcohol (83%) or those who do not drink alcohol at all(93%).

The majority of Russians support the ban on alcohol night sales (79%). Most of those who approve of the idea are respondents who drink alcohol rarely (84%) or those who do not drink at all (86%), residents of small and middle cities (82-83%), supporters of CPRF (82%) and United Russia (83%) parties. Seventeen percent of Russians, in their turn, negatively assess the proposal. The ban is absolutely disapproved by those who often drink alcohol (30%), Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (25%), supporters of LDPR (31%) and non-parliament parties (39%).

Those who negatively assess the proposal believe that the ban is useless and ineffective (44%). Fifteen percent think that the ban would trigger the rise in sales and consumption of illegal alcohol. The overwhelming majority of those who oppose the ban have personal reasons: 10% recognize it will cause them problems, and 7% think the ban is a violation of rights.

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 13-14 October, 2010. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

	Total respondents	Do you drink alcohol	
		often	some
<i>Yes</i>	22	41	26
<i>No</i>	76	57	71
<i>Hard to tell</i>	2	2	3

There have been actively discussed the initiative to ban night sales of alcohol. This ban has been open personally support the initiative?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	Do you drink alcohol	
		often	somet
<i>Completely support</i>	53	34	47
<i>Rather support</i>	26	31	32
<i>Rather oppose</i>	11	20	13
<i>Completely oppose</i>	6	10	4
<i>Hard to tell</i>	4	5	4

There have been actively discussed the initiative to ban night sales of alcohol. This ban has been operated in many regions of Russia. Do you personally support the initiative?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	Type of settlement				
		Moscow and St.Petersburg	More than 500thousand	100 - 500thousand	Less than100thousand	Rural area
<i>Completely support</i>	53	46	47	57	49	60
<i>Rather support</i>	26	24	29	26	33	20
<i>Rather oppose</i>	11	16	12	9	9	13
<i>Completely oppose</i>	6	9	8	5	6	3
<i>Hard to tell</i>	4	6	4	3	5	3

If you do not support the ban on alcohol night sales, can you tell why?

(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who do not support the ban on alcohol sales)

<i>Useless, ineffective measure; alcoholics will find a way how to get alcohol</i>	44
<i>It will trigger the rise in sales of illegal alcohol</i>	15
<i>It will cause me problems; it will constrain me</i>	10
<i>It is a violation of rights</i>	7
<i>Other</i>	3
<i>Hard to tell</i>	23

Note: Using materials from the site www.wciom.ru or wciom.com, as well as distributed by VCIOM, the reference to the source (or hyperlink for the electronic media) is obligatory.

WEST EUROPE

IPSOS MORI

Liberal Democrat support dropping dramatically in some regions

9 December 2010

Liberal Democrat support has plummeted since the general election in the North East and South West of England, new analysis of Ipsos MORI polls shows.

As controversy over Liberal Democrat support for the government's policy on university tuition fees reaches a peak, Ipsos MORI's aggregate analysis of their monthly polls since the general election shows that support has swung from the Liberal Democrats to Labour across the country, but much more sharply in some regions than in others.

Ben Page, CEO, Ipsos MORI says:

"It is traditional for Lib Dems to drop in the polls outside of election campaigns, this is usually down to a lack of media exposure. But now they're in government – and making headlines, albeit negative ones and their support has still fallen. Especially interesting is the drop in the Lib Dem stronghold of the South West and to just 4% in the North East."

	All GB	North East	North West	Yorks & Humber	East Mids	West Mids	East-ern	Greater London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland
2010 election												
Conservative	37%	24%	32%	33%	41%	40%	47%	35%	50%	43%	26%	17%
Labour	30%	44%	39%	35%	30%	31%	20%	37%	16%	15%	36%	42%
Liberal Democrats	24%	24%	22%	23%	21%	20%	24%	22%	26%	35%	20%	19%
Others	10%	9%	7%	9%	8%	9%	9%	7%	8%	7%	17%	22%
June-Nov 2010												
Conservative	37%	23%	31%	35%	46%	43%	41%	36%	48%	47%	22%	20%
Labour	37%	62%	48%	40%	32%	31%	32%	47%	21%	28%	40%	40%
Liberal Democrats	15%	4%	15%	16%	14%	15%	19%	10%	22%	16%	14%	15%
Others	10%	12%	6%	9%	8%	11%	9%	6%	9%	9%	24%	24%
Change												
Conservative	0	-1%	-1%	+2%	+5%	+3%	-6%	+1%	-2%	+4%	-4%	+3%
Labour	+7%	+18%	+9%	+5%	+2%	0	+12%	+10%	+5%	+13%	+4%	-2%
Liberal Democrats	-9%	-20%	-7%	-7%	-7%	-5%	-5%	-12%	-4%	-19%	-6%	-4%
Others	0	+3%	-1%	0	0	+2%	0	-1%	+1%	+2%	+7%	+2%
LD to Labour swing	+8.0%	+19.0%	+8.0%	+6.0%	+4.5%	+2.5%	+8.5%	+11.0%	+4.5%	+16.0%	+5.0%	+1.0%

Across Great Britain as a whole, Liberal Democrat support has averaged 15% between June and November, less than two-thirds of the 24% of the vote that the party secured at the general election; the swing has been almost entirely to Labour, with the Conservatives holding the 37% they won in May.

But there have been big differences in the changes in support in different regions. In the North East, Liberal Democrat support has almost disappeared, falling to just 4% of those certain to vote, an overall swing to Labour of 19%. In the South West, the Lib Dems' strongest region at

the election, the swing has been almost as high, 16%, and they have lost half their support in London, with an 11% swing to Labour.

Most recent polls have shown the Lib Dems well below that post-election average of 15% nationally, which suggests that they may well be even worse off now in many regions than these figures show.

However, the party has held on to most of its support in the Midlands and South East, as well in Scotland and Wales where devolved elections are due next May

Technical note:

Base: 5,029 GB adults aged 18+, of which 2,839 certain to vote and giving a voting intention. Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of c.1,000 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone 18 to 20 June, 23 to 25 July, 10-12 September, 15-17 October, 12-24 November. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of “don’t know” categories, or multiple answers.

Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote, are undecided or refuse to name a party and in the headline figures, those who are not absolutely certain to vote.

Trade Confidence Hits An 8 Month High

07.12.2010 United Kingdom

Importers and exporters confidence soared in November...

- **Travelex Confidence Index Nov 2010** *PDF (0.36 mb)*
 - Confidence grows for the year ahead as trade boosts economic growth
 - Importers and exporters confident that they can support Office for Budget Responsibility trade forecasts

Importers and exporters confidence soared in November, after it was revealed that trade played a large part in boosting UK economic growth in the third quarter of 2010.

Its highest level in 8 months, the Travelex Confidence Index rose 8 points during November to stand at 112. Importer & exporter confidence surged unexpectedly as 70% said they felt confident about current trade conditions.

The rise in positive sentiment was driven by stronger than anticipated economic growth in the third quarter of 2010, as trade made its biggest contribution to UK growth in two years.

Confidence in the UK economy also flourished in November, as a string of strong economic data created a ‘feel good factor’ within the sector. 85% of importers and exporters felt confident that UK economic growth would be sustained, a rise of 19% from the previous month.

Travelex Global Business Payments said that the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) would welcome the rise in confidence as the OBR have forecasted trade to contribute 0.7% to the UK’s

economic growth over the next 5 years. “Their increasing confidence will be good news for the OBR, who have presented some bullish trade forecasts for 2011,” commented David Sear, Global Managing Director at Travelex Global Business Payments.

Confidence in an export led recovery shot up to 49%, the highest it has been since April. There was also an increase in confidence in future trade conditions, as 68% were confident that there would be an increase in demand over the next 6 – 12 months.

David Sear said, “Confidence in the trade sector is pivotal to the UK’s economic outlook. We urge the Government to continue their vital trade overseas missions and support for exporting businesses through innovation and resource, to ensure that growth in the UK export sector is not jeopardised in 2011.”

Almost Half of Britons Would Vote to Abandon European Union

(12/06/10) -

Three-in-five respondents believe EU membership has been negative for their country.

British sentiments on the country’s European Union (EU) membership are worsening, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,002 British adults, three-in-five respondents (59%) say EU membership has been moderately negative (30%) or very negative (29%) for the United Kingdom.

Since June, the proportion of Britons who say the EU has been very positive for the UK has dropped from seven per cent to four per cent, and while 31 per cent regarded it as moderately positive earlier this year, only 25 per cent feel the same way now.

European Union			
The United Kingdom has been a member of the European Union (EU)—previously the European Economic Community (EEC)—since 1973. Overall, do you think EU membership has been positive or negative for the United Kingdom?			
	Total – Dec. 2010	Total – Jun. 2010	Difference (+/-)
Very positive	4%	7%	-3%
Moderately positive	25%	31%	-6%
Moderately negative	30%	26%	+4%
Very negative	29%	25%	+4%
Not sure	12%	11%	+1%
Positive – net	29%	38%	-9%
Negative – net	59%	51%	+8%

In the event of a referendum on the UK’s EU membership, nearly half of Britons (48%) would vote in favour of pulling out, while 27 per cent would vote to stay.

Pound Vs. Euro

When asked about the UK adopting the euro as its national currency, four-in-five respondents (80%) would vote in favour of the country maintaining the pound. This figure remains unchanged since the June 2010 Angus Reid Public Opinion poll released on this subject in June 2010.

European Union			
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union (EU) were held tomorrow, how would you vote?			
	Total – Dec. 2010	Total – Jun. 2010	Difference (+/-)
In favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	27%	35%	-8%
Against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	48%	42%	+6%
Not sure	21%	20%	+1%
Would not vote	4%	3%	+1%

When it comes to political leanings, 41 per cent of Labour Party supporters and 31 per cent of Liberal Democrat supporters would vote in favour of the UK remaining in the EU, but only 17 per cent of Conservatives concur. The level of aversion to the euro is very strong among all party followers (Con. 90%, Lib-Dem 80%, Lab. 77%).

Respondents aged 18 to 34 are more evenly split than older voters on whether the UK should remain in the EU. Despite that nearly three-quarters (73%) feel the EU's effect on the UK has been negative, 37 per cent of younger respondents would vote to stay. Nearly two-thirds of Britons over the age of 55 (58%) would vote to leave the EU, and 62 per cent of them feel its effect has been detrimental to Britain.

Methodology: From November 30 to December 1, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,002 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2% for the entire sample. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

NORTH AMERICA

In U.S., Working Caregivers Face Wellbeing Challenges

Negative effects of caregiving greatest for those aged 18 to 29

December 8, 2010

Americans who work a full-time job and say they care for an elderly or disabled family member, relative, or friend -- 16% of the full-time workforce -- suffer from lower wellbeing than those who work a full-time job but do not have additional caregiving responsibilities. Caregivers' 66.4 overall wellbeing score is significantly lower than the 70.2 among non-caregivers.

Well-Being Index Composite Score: Caregivers vs. Non-Caregivers

Among those employed full time

	Caregivers	Non-Caregivers
Well-Being Index Composite Score	66.4	70.2

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

Jan. 2, 2010-Nov. 24, 2010

GALLUP®

These findings are based on 140,853 interviews with American adults employed full time conducted Jan. 2-Nov. 24, 2010 as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. Of these respondents, 23,520 self-identified as caregivers based on their response to the question "Do you currently help care for an elderly or disabled family member, relative, or friend, or not?"

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index score comprises six sub-indexes, which measure how Americans rate their lives, emotional health, work environment, physical health, healthy behaviors, and access to basic necessities.

Negative Effects of Caregiving Greatest for Young Adults

Six percent of caregivers who are employed full time are aged 18 to 29, 22% are aged 30 to 44, 65% are between the ages of 45 and 64, and 6% are aged 65 and older.

Working Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 -- although the least likely to be caregivers -- feel the negative effects of caregiving more than any other age group. Wellbeing scores drop from 70.4 among working non-caregivers aged 18 to 20 to 64.9 among those of the same age who are caregivers.

The difference in wellbeing between working caregivers and non-caregivers declines as Americans get older, with essentially no difference in wellbeing scores among those aged 65 and older.

Well-Being Index Scores for Caregivers vs. Non-Caregivers, by Age

Among those employed full time

	Caregivers	Non-Caregivers	Difference
18-29	64.9	70.4	-5.5
30-44	65.2	70.4	-5.2
45-64	67.0	69.7	-2.7
65+	71.6	72.1	-0.5

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

Jan. 2, 2010-Nov. 24, 2010

GALLUP®

Caregivers Do Worse on Five of Six Key Areas of Wellbeing

Caregivers score worse than non-caregivers on five of the six wellbeing sub-indexes. The greatest differences are in terms of life evaluation, physical health, and access to basic necessities. Caregivers, however, report more healthy behaviors than do non-caregivers.

Well-Being Sub-Index Scores: Caregivers vs. Non-Caregivers

Among those employed full time

	Caregivers	Non-Caregivers	Difference
Life Evaluation Index	50.5	58.7	-8.2
Emotional Health Index	78.0	81.9	-3.9
Physical Health Index	77.4	83.0	-5.6
Healthy Behavior Index	63.8	62.8	+1.0
Work Environment Index	47.0	49.1	-2.1
Basic Access Index	81.4	85.5	-4.1

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

Jan. 2, 2010-Nov. 24, 2010

GALLUP®

Implications

The one in six American adults who are employed full time and identify themselves as caregivers have significantly lower wellbeing compared with those who work full time but don't carry the additional caregiving responsibility. The deleterious effects of caregiving on a person's emotional and physical health may be because of the added responsibilities, physical demands, and emotional burdens associated with such a role. Furthermore, these effects likely vary based on the intensity of the need of the person requiring care and the nature of the condition, from Alzheimer's and dementia to physical disability.

A recent study of Well-Being Index data by Joseph Coughlin, Ph.D., the founder and director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab, found that caregivers experience more daily stress and worry and less happiness and enjoyment than non-caregivers, and they are more likely to report having been diagnosed with depression. Coughlin also found that these conditions worsened substantially among the unemployed for both groups.

At the same time, it is possible that caregivers are somewhat predisposed to lower wellbeing than non-caregivers, as they are slightly less educated and have somewhat lower income. These realities may reduce options regarding outsourcing caregiving and could increase the likelihood that people with lower wellbeing to begin with could ultimately end up serving in a caregiving role.

Interestingly, Well-Being Index data suggest that the potentially negative impact of caregiving on wellbeing decreases with age, even as the demands of career, family, saving for retirement and college tuition, and declining physical health typically become more profound. That young people, particularly those younger than 30, have substantially lower wellbeing than their counterparts who are non-caregivers reveals a risk group perhaps in the greatest need of support and resources to maintain their wellbeing.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index survey Jan. 2-Nov. 24, 2010, with a random sample of 140,853 adults employed full time, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling. Of this sample of respondents, one-sixth self-identified as caregivers. Nearly two-thirds of all caregivers are between the ages of 45 and 64.

For results based on the total sample of caregivers, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 0.6 percentage point. For smaller groups, such as caregivers aged 18 to 29 and 65 years old and older, the maximum error range is about ± 3 percentage points.

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

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic

weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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

Americans Support Two Major Elements of Tax Compromise

Liberal vs. conservative/moderate Democrats disagree on extending tax cuts for all

December 8, 2010

Two major elements included in the tax agreement reached Monday between President Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress meet with broad public support. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) favor extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all Americans for two years, and an identical number support extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed.

U.S. Public Support for Extending Tax Cuts for Two Years for All Americans and for Extending Unemployment Benefits for the Long-Term Unemployed

Percentage who would vote "for" proposal if they could vote on each measure

	Extending tax cuts	Extending unemployment benefits
	%	%
National adults	66	66
Republicans	85	43
Independents	67	71
Democrats	52	84

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

GALLUP®

According to Gallup polling conducted Dec. 3-6, the slight majority of Democrats, as well as most independents and Republicans, would vote for a two-year extension of the tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003.

This differs slightly from a November Gallup poll giving Americans three options for extending the Bush tax cuts. That poll found 40% in favor of extending the tax cuts for all Americans, 44% in favor of extending them with limits on tax breaks for the wealthy, and 13% in favor of letting the tax breaks expire altogether. Nevertheless, the results of the new question suggest that, while the compromise position on taxes may not be their ideal, most Americans would support congressional passage of it.

In terms of extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed, more rank-and-file Republicans say they would vote against this than for it; however, the vast majority of independents and Democrats are in favor.

Opposition Limited to the Extremes

Looking more specifically at the different ideological wings of each party, only liberal Democrats oppose extending the tax breaks for everyone: 39% are in favor, while 55% are opposed. Among the other groups, support ranges from 64% of conservative/moderate Democrats to 87% of conservative Republicans.

Similarly, conservative Republicans are the only political/ideological group opposing the extension of unemployment benefits. The majority of moderate/liberal Republicans are in favor, as are most Democrats, regardless of ideology.

Support for Extending Tax Cuts and Unemployment Benefits, by Party/Ideology

Percentage who would vote "for" each measure

	Extending tax cuts	Extending unemployment benefits
	%	%
Conservative Republicans	87	38
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	78	62
Conservative/Moderate Democrats	64	85
Liberal Democrats	39	82

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

"Pure independents" not shown due to low sample size

GALLUP

Maintaining the income tax cuts for two more years and extending unemployment benefits are two of eight items included in a Gallup referendum-style question giving Americans the opportunity to say how they would vote on various proposals under review by the lame-duck Congress. Gallup has used this "for" or "against" format periodically since the early 1970s to measure public opinion on the issues of the day.

Both issues are among the most popular measures tested in the new poll, tied with allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military. The only item garnering more support is strengthening food safety regulations. Gallup will explore public views on these and the other referenda items in greater depth in future articles.

Gallup December 2010 Issues Referenda

Suppose that on Election Day you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against a law that would do each of the following. First, would you vote for or against a law that would ___?

	For	Against
	%	%
Increase government regulation of food safety	75	21
Allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military	67	28
Extend the federal income tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 for all Americans for two years	66	29
Extend unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	66	30
Allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college	54	42
Ratify the nuclear arms agreement with Russia, called the START treaty	51	30
Postpone previously scheduled cuts in the amounts Medicare pays doctors to treat Medicare patients	50	42
Ban all earmarks in bills passed by Congress	46	36

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

GALLUP'

Implications

The White House reportedly agreed to extend the Bush tax cuts for all Americans partly to help lure independents back to the Democrats' fold by 2012. That reasoning seems sound. By yielding on the tax cuts, Obama extracted Republican leaders' support for extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed -- and large majorities of independents support both measures. Additionally, according to a post-election Gallup poll, by 49% to 24%, independents are more inclined to favor partisan compromise over principled standoffs in Congress. Thus, rather than get mired in a partisan squabble that could result in higher taxes for the middle class come January, Obama can present himself as the architect of a new era of compromise.

While Republicans generally don't agree with extending unemployment benefits, they broadly support extending the tax cuts, and at least a slim majority of Democrats support both measures. In fact, the only groups not supporting both proposals are liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans. The more moderate members of both parties join independents in generally supporting the proposals. Thus, if Congress ultimately passes the elements announced Monday, the compromise would likely satisfy more Americans than it dissatisfies.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Dec. 3-6, 2010, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,003 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

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

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

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

Despite Changed Environment, American Investors Uphold Strategy

Many investors have not changed investment approach in terms of strategy or decision-making

New York, N.Y. - December 8, 2010 - Despite the economic crisis in the United States which began (per the National Bureau of Economic Research) in December of 2007, only one in five U.S. adults say they have changed their investment strategy recently, compared to a few years ago (21%)-17% say they have shifted toward more conservative or stable investments and very small numbers say they have shifted toward more aggressive or volatile investments (4%). Almost two in five Americans (38%) say that they have not changed their investment strategy compared to a few years ago; slightly more say they do not make financial investments (42%).

These are some of the findings of a new **24/7 Wall St./Harris Poll** survey of 2,104 U.S. adults surveyed online between November 18 and 22, 2010 by **Harris Interactive**.

Among those Americans who make financial investments, two in five say they have changed to either narrow or diversify their investments recently (38%). It is unclear which strategy is preferred though, as equal numbers of investors say they have increasingly diversified their investments (17%), as say they've narrowed or focused their investments recently (16%). The majority of investors say again, however, that they have not changed their investment strategy (62%).

Decision Making

Other findings of this survey include:

- Among Americans with financial investments, two in five say that they make their own investment decisions without the help of a financial advisor (42%);

- One in five say that they make most investment decisions but use a financial advisor for specialized needs (21%);
- Just under one in five say they rely on a financial advisor to make most or all of their investment decisions (17%); and,
- One in ten say they regularly consult with a financial advisor but make most of the financial investment decisions themselves (11%).

Although similar numbers of younger and older investors say they make their investment decisions themselves, the more investable assets one has, the less likely they are to do this:

- Six in ten of those with less than \$10,000 in investable assets say they make investment decisions themselves (58%), compared to 46% of those with between \$10,000 and \$99,999 to invest, 36% of those with \$100,000 to \$499,999 to invest, and just a third of those with \$500,000 or more to invest (33%).

When American investors were asked if their strategy regarding making investment decisions has changed from what it was several years ago, the majority again confirm that they have not made any change (63%); one in five say yes, they rely on themselves now more than previously (19%) and one in ten say the opposite, that they rely on a financial advisor more now (11%) than they used to.

Looking Ahead

When investors were asked to think about how their investments might change over the next five years, the data further supports the idea that American investors are remaining constant in their choices—one third say they don't expect to change the amount they invest over the next five years (30%) while greater numbers show even more confidence and say they expect to increase the amount they invest over the next five years (39%). Consistent with the needs and priorities at different life stages, younger adults are more likely to say they will increase the amount they invest (51% of those 18-34 and 56% of those 35-44) over the next five years, compared to older American investors, 55 and older, who say the same (20%). Only 16% of investors overall say they expect to decrease or spend-down the amount they invest over the next five years.

So What?

While we know that Americans have made many small changes as a result of the difficult economic times, from this report it seems as if Americans have taken the opposite approach, holding steady, with regard to their financial investments. Looking ahead, it seems that Americans are not entirely discouraged either with large numbers of investors expecting to remain constant, or even increase the amount they invest, in the future. Thus, while the economy has yet to fully recover, American investors remain strong and confident in their choices, holding steady with their chosen strategies rather than letting their emotions get the better of them—a long-term approach frequently praised, which hopefully will reap rewards for these investors as the economy begins to grow.

TABLE 1

CHANGED INVESTMENT STRATEGY

"Overall, would you say that you've changed your financial investment strategy recently, compared to a few years ago? Please choose the statement below that describes you best."

Base: All U.S. adults

	Total	Age				Education		
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	H.S. or less	Some college	College grad +
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Makes financial investments (NET)	58	46	62	60	67	45	57	81
Changed strategy (NET)	21	14	19	21	26	15	19	32
Yes, I've shifted toward more conservative/stable investments.	17	10	12	17	25	12	15	26
Yes, I've shifted toward more aggressive/volatile investments.	4	5	7	4	2	3	3	6
No, I have not changed my investment strategy.	38	32	43	39	40	31	38	49
Not applicable - I do not make financial investments.	42	54	38	40	33	55	43	19
	Total	Investable Assets					Not sure/Decline to answer	
		Under \$10,000	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$499,999	\$500,000+			
		%	%	%	%			
Makes financial investments (NET)	58	43	75	95	93	48		

Changed strategy (NET)	21	12	26	34	59	16
Yes, I've shifted toward more conservative/stable investments.	17	8	19	31	43	15
Yes, I've shifted toward more aggressive/volatile investments.	4	4	7	3	15	2
No, I have not changed my investment strategy.	38	31	49	60	34	32
Not applicable - I do not make financial investments.	42	57	25	5	7	52

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 2

DIVERSIFIED OR NARROWED INVESTMENTS

"How, if at all, have you changed your investment strategy recently? Please choose the statement below which best describes you."

Base: All U.S. adults who make financial investments

	Total	Age				Education		
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	H.S. or less	Some college	College grad +
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Changed strategy (NET)	38	38	34	41	37	32	37	43
Increasingly diversified my investments	17	21	22	16	13	9	12	27
Narrowed or focused my investments	16	12	9	19	20	16	21	12
Other	5	5	4	6	4	6	4	4

I have not changed my investment strategy	62	62	66	59	63	68	63	57
	Total	Investable Assets						
		Under \$10,000	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$499,999	\$500,000+	Not sure/Decline to answer		
		%	%	%	%	%	%	
Changed strategy (NET)	38	29	40	39	64	34		
Increasingly diversified my investments	17	13	18	22	33	13		
Narrowed or focused my investments	16	10	18	13	31	16		
Other	5	7	4	4	*	6		
I have not changed my investment strategy	62	71	60	61	36	66		

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding; * indicates less than .05%

TABLE 3

TYPES OF INVESTMENTS

"Please indicate how much of your invested assets are in each type of investment below."

Base: All U.S. adults who make financial investments

	Have this type of investment (NET)	Most or all of my assets are invested in this way	Some of my assets are invested in this way	A small percent of my assets are invested in this way	I do not have this type of investment	Not sure	Decline to answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
401(k)/403(b) or	65	22	32	10	16	6	13

IRA							
Property (e.g. house, condo)	56	11	33	11	24	7	13
Mutual funds	45	8	27	10	32	9	14
Individual stocks	43	4	23	17	34	8	14
Bonds	30	2	14	14	46	10	14
Other	26	3	12	11	38	20	16

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 4
DECISION MAKING APPROACH

"The following are some different approaches you might take regarding advice and investment decision making. For the majority of your assets, which one of the statements below best describes your preferred approach?"

Base: All U.S. adults who make financial investments

	Total	Age			
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+
	%	%	%	%	%
I make my own investment decisions without the assistance of a financial advisor.	42	47	43	53	34
I make most of my own investment decisions, but use a financial advisor for specialized needs.	21	23	26	18	20
I regularly consult with a financial advisor and I may also get additional information myself, but I make most of the financial decisions.	11	9	6	10	16

I rely upon a financial advisor to make most or all of my investment decisions.	17	13	18	11	22
Other	8	9	6	9	9

	Total	Investable Assets				
		Under \$10,000	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$499,999	\$500,000+	Not sure/Decline to answer
		%	%	%	%	%
I make my own investment decisions without the assistance of a financial advisor.	42	58	46	36	33	35
I make most of my own investment decisions, but use a financial advisor for specialized needs.	21	13	24	26	31	20
I regularly consult with a financial advisor and I may also get additional information myself, but I make most of the financial decisions.	11	8	9	15	23	11
I rely upon a financial advisor to make most or all of my investment decisions.	17	15	17	19	12	17
Other	8	7	5	3	2	16

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 5

CHANGE IN DECISION MAKING

"Has your approach regarding advice and investment decision making changed from what it was several years ago?"

Base: All U.S. adults who make financial investments

	Total	Age			
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, I rely on myself to make decisions now more than I did before.	19	19	18	22	18
Yes, I rely on my financial advisor now more than I did before.	11	6	16	12	11
No, there has been no change.	63	62	62	63	66
Not applicable - I did not previously make financial investments.	7	13	5	4	6

	Total	Investable Assets				
		Under \$10,000	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$499,999	\$500,000+	Not sure/Decline to answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, I rely on myself to make decisions now more than I did before.	19	13	21	18	35	18
Yes, I rely on my financial advisor now more than I did before.	11	5	15	12	21	8
No, there has been no change.	63	73	60	68	43	61
Not applicable - I did not previously make financial investments.	7	9	4	2	-	13

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 6

TIME SPENT

"Thinking of the time you usually spend on your financial investments, would you say you spend...?"

Base: All U.S. adults who make financial investments

	Total	Investable Assets				
		Under \$10,000	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$499,999	\$500,000+	Not sure/Decline to answer
		%	%	%	%	%
A lot/A moderate amount of time (NET)	36	22	37	43	72	33
A lot of time	5	1	5	9	20	2
A moderate amount of time	31	20	32	33	52	31
Not very much/Almost no time (NET)	55	73	57	54	28	48
Not very much time	35	39	38	45	18	29
Very little or almost no time	20	34	19	9	11	19
Not at all sure	5	5	4	2	-	8
Decline to answer	4	1	3	1	-	11

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 7

NEXT 5 YEARS

"Thinking about the next 5 years, do you think you will increase or decrease/"spend-down" the amount you invest?"

Base: All U.S. adults who make financial investments

	Total	Age			
		18-34	35-44	45-54	55+

	%	%	%	%	%
Increase (NET)	39	51	56	45	20
Increase a lot	6	11	13	2	*
Increase somewhat	33	39	43	43	19
Decrease/"Spend-down" (NET)	16	11	4	12	27
Decrease/"Spend-down" somewhat	11	10	2	8	19
Decrease/"Spend-down" a lot	5	1	2	4	8
I don't expect to change the amount I invest in the next 5 years.	30	24	30	25	37
Not at all sure	15	15	10	18	16

	Investable Assets					
	Total	Under \$10,000	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$499,999	\$500,000+	Not sure/Decline to answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increase (NET)	39	45	43	37	46	30
Increase a lot	6	5	7	4	17	3
Increase somewhat	33	39	36	33	30	27
Decrease/"Spend-down" (NET)	16	11	19	24	24	11
Decrease/"Spend-down" somewhat	11	5	12	18	23	9
Decrease/"Spend-down" a lot	5	6	7	6	1	2
I don't expect to change the amount I invest in the next 5 years.	30	29	31	33	29	30
Not at all sure	15	15	7	7	1	29

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Methodology

This **24/7 Wall St./Harris Poll** was conducted online within the United States between November 18 and 22, 2010 among 2,104 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. Where appropriate, this data were also weighted to reflect the composition of the adult online 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.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is one of the world's leading custom market research firms, leveraging research, technology, and business acumen to transform relevant insight into actionable foresight. Known widely for the Harris Poll and for pioneering innovative research methodologies, Harris offers expertise in a wide range of industries including healthcare, technology, public affairs, energy, telecommunications, financial services, insurance, media, retail, restaurant, and consumer package goods. Serving clients in over 215 countries and territories through our North American, European, and Asian offices and a network of independent market research firms, Harris specializes in delivering research solutions that help us - and our clients - stay ahead of what's next. For more information, please visit www.harrisinteractive.com.

About 24/7 Wall St.

24/7 Wall St. is a leading independent financial news and opinion website focused on the U.S. and global equity markets. The site publishes over 20 original articles a day on topics ranging from stock and sector news and market commentary to financial analysis and industry research. Through syndication partnerships, 24/7 Wall St.'s articles are republished by the leading financial networks and the largest news websites, including Dow Jones Marketwatch, The Street, AOL's Daily Finance, The Huffington Post, Yahoo! Finance, The Atlantic, and Comcast.net. For more information, please visit www.247wallst.com.

One Nation Divided Over Health-Care Reform

In the Wake of Republican Victory in Congress, Repealing the Health Care Reform Law is a Leading Topic of Debate Among Americans

NORWALK, Connecticut, USA (December 6, 2010) - Americans remain deeply divided over the nation's new health-care reform package, with 40 percent of adults wanting to repeal all or most of the legislation while 31 percent favor keeping all or most of the reforms.

Another 29 percent aren't sure what should be done.

Those are several key findings in a new *Harris Interactive/HealthDay* poll released today.

The conflicting views reflect divisions in Congress, where Republicans will take control of the House of Representatives in January following election gains at the polls last month. Many GOP representatives have pledged to dismantle-or, at the very least, curtail-the controversial legislation signed into law by President Barack Obama in March.

But the poll also uncovered an intriguing paradox: Many of those who want the health-reform law repealed favor keeping many of its key components.

Specifically, nearly two-thirds of poll respondents like that the law prevents insurers from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. Sixty percent want to keep the provision of tax credits for small businesses that provide their employees with health insurance. While just over half support the law for allowing children to remain on their parents insurance until they are 26.

The poll released today surveyed 2,019 adults online between November 19-23, 2010 by Harris Interactive, one of the world's leading custom market research firms, and HealthDay, a leading producer and syndicator of health news.

"Additional poll results indicate that many Americans want to repeal the bill not because they dislike the specifics, but because they feel it is an expensive expansion of an already big government," said Humphrey Taylor, chairman of The Harris Poll, Harris Interactive's long-running public opinion poll. He continues, "81% believe it will result in higher taxes, could lead to rationing of health care (74%), and reduce the quality of care they will receive (77%)."

Perhaps part of the explanation for this paradox was seen in a previous [HealthDay/Harris Interactive poll](#) which discovered that Americans have little knowledge of the specifics of the more than 2,500-page law. "There's a substantial gap in the general public understanding [but] the more informed people are, the more they understand," said Thomas R. Oliver, professor of population health sciences at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison.

"I think this suggests that as the public becomes more familiar with the law and how it will benefit them and their families, support will probably climb," said Sara Collins, vice president for Affordable Health Insurance at The Commonwealth Fund. She continues, "There's just a lag while immediate provisions are rolling out like young adult coverage."

The complete findings of the newest joint Harris Interactive/HealthDay poll are available. HealthDay's news report is available [here](#) . Full data on the poll and its methodology are available at [Harris Interactive](#) .

###

Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the United States November 19 to 23, 2010 among 2,019 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.

Full data available at www.harrisinteractive.com

The results of this Harris Poll may not be used in advertising, marketing or promotion without the prior written permission of Harris Interactive.

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

About HealthDay

HealthDay, a division of Scout News LLC, is a leading producer and syndicator of evidence-based health news for consumers and physicians and is the largest syndicator of that news to Internet sites. Its consumer health news service (www.healthday.com) appears on more than 5,000 Web sites such as Yahoo!, MSN, iVillage, US News & World Report, hundreds of hospital and hospital group Web sites, as well as print publication Web sites across the country. HealthDay also produces Physician's Briefing (www.physiciansbriefing.com), a news service for physicians, nurses and other medical professionals updated twice daily providing 15 articles a day across 27 medical specialties. HealthDay also provides custom content for major health portals. The newest addition to the HealthDay portfolio is [HealthDay TV](#) -- a 90-second news broadcast of essential health information that appears on several major media Web sites, U.S. government Web sites and other health information sites.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is one of the world's leading custom market research firms, leveraging research, technology, and business acumen to transform relevant insight into actionable foresight. Known widely for the Harris Poll and for pioneering innovative research methodologies, Harris offers expertise in a wide range of industries including health care, technology, public affairs, energy, telecommunications, financial services, insurance, media, retail, restaurant, and consumer package goods. Serving clients in more than 215 countries and territories through our North American, European, and Asian offices and a network of independent market research firms, Harris specializes in delivering research solutions that help us - and our clients - stay ahead of what's next. For more information, please visit www.harrisinteractive.com.

Republican Having A Slight Edge Over Democrats

Ipsos/ Reuters Poll: December 2010

Tuesday, December 07, 2010

Washington, DC - Ipsos' December poll for Reuters shows that public opinion towards the Republican Party has recovered from 2008's low ratings, with 45% now favorable and 48% unfavorable towards the Republicans. The Democrats' ratings have dropped notably since their post-2008 election high of 61%, and are now on 43% favorable and 51% unfavorable.

When asked which party will do a better job in key policy areas, the Democrats are seen as better on education and the environment. Republicans are seen as better on dealing with the terrorist threat at home, taxation, reducing the deficit, and improving the economy. However, across the board, an increasing number of people are saying that 'both' parties would do a better job, underlining the public appetite for cooperation between the parties.

When asked about favorability towards various public figures, Hillary Clinton and Mike Huckabee had the highest 'net' (favorable minus unfavorable) ratings from those included on our list, followed by David Petraeus and President Obama. Those with the lowest ratings were Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi and Rush Limbaugh.

The survey also covers public attitudes to a wide range of proposals for reducing the national budget deficit. You can download the complete topline in the right sidebar of this page.

About Ipsos

Ipsos is a leading global survey-based market research company, owned and managed by research professionals. Ipsos helps interpret, simulate, and anticipate the needs and responses of consumers, customers, and citizens around the world.

Member companies assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media. They measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos member companies offer expertise in advertising, customer loyalty, marketing, media, and public affairs research, as well as forecasting, modeling, and consulting. Ipsos has a full line of custom, syndicated, omnibus, panel, and online research products and services, guided by industry experts and bolstered by advanced analytics and methodologies. The company was founded in 1975 and has been publicly traded since 1999.

In 2009, Ipsos generated global revenues of €43.7 million (\$1.31 billion U.S.).

Obama Approval Rating Holding Steady Since Midterms

Averaged 46% approval in most recent week

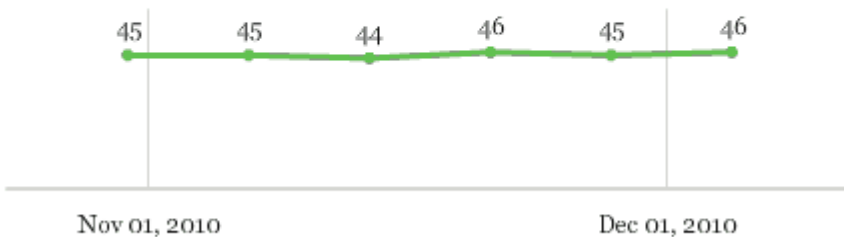
December 7, 2010

President Barack Obama's job approval rating has held steady in the mid-40% range since the midterm elections last month. His average rating for the week leading up to the midterms was 45%, and it has remained close to that, including a 46% rating for the week of Nov. 29-Dec. 5.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

Recent Gallup Daily tracking weekly averages

■ % Approve



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The most recent weekly average, with interviewing through last Sunday, would not reflect possible public reaction to the president's deal with Republican congressional leaders on income taxes and unemployment benefits.

The stability in Obama's rating since the midterm elections is notable. Most presidents whose parties suffered heavy losses in the midterms saw their average approval ratings fall after the midterm elections through the end of the year, including George W. Bush (down three percentage points in 2006), Bill Clinton (down four points in 1994), and Gerald Ford (down eight points in 1974). Ronald Reagan's approval ratings were unchanged after the 1982 midterm elections.

The largest post-midterm drop for a president's approval rating since 1974 was Reagan's 15-point decline in 1986, but that was in response to the Iran-Contra scandal rather than the outcome of that year's midterm elections.

Change in Presidential Job Approval Ratings, Pre- to Post-Midterm Elections, 1974-2010

Year	President	Party seat gain/loss in U.S. House	Approval rating at time of midterm	Average approval rating, post-midterm	Change in approval rating (pct. pts.)
2010	Obama	-63*	44%**	45%	+1
2006	G.W. Bush	-30	38%	35%	-3
2002	G.W. Bush	+6	63%	64%	+1
1998	Clinton	+5	66%	66%	0
1994	Clinton	-53	46%	42%	-4
1990	G.H.W. Bush	-8	58%	59%	+1
1986	Reagan	-5	63%	48%	-15
1982	Reagan	-28	42%	42%	0
1978	Carter	-11	49%	51%	+2
1974	Ford	-43	54%	46%	-8

*Based on most current results

**Represents the three-day average in the days immediately before the election

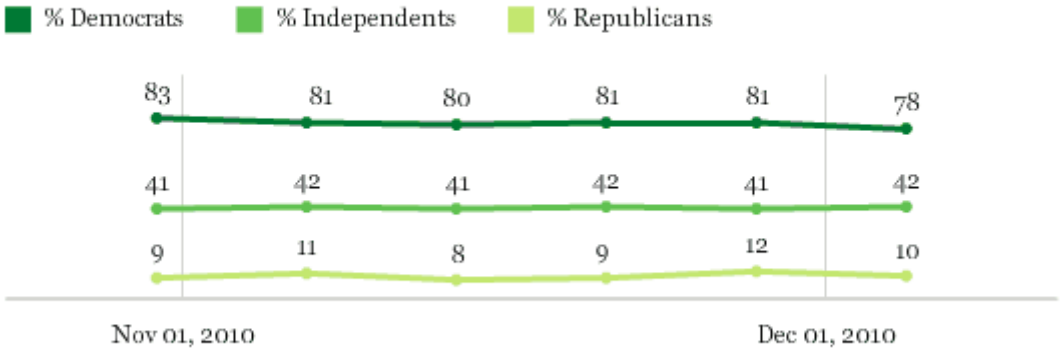
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Obama's Ratings Continue to Show Large Party, Race Divisions

Obama's job approval by political party has been stable in recent weeks and continues to show large gaps among party groups. Democrats are naturally the most supportive, with about 8 in 10 currently approving of the job Obama is doing as president. Obama's approval rating among independents is roughly half that of Democrats, with 42% expressing approval of the president during the week of Nov. 29-Dec. 5. Obama finds little support among Republicans, with about 1 in 10 evaluating him positively.

Barack Obama Presidential Job Approval Ratings, by Political Party

Recent Gallup Daily tracking weekly averages

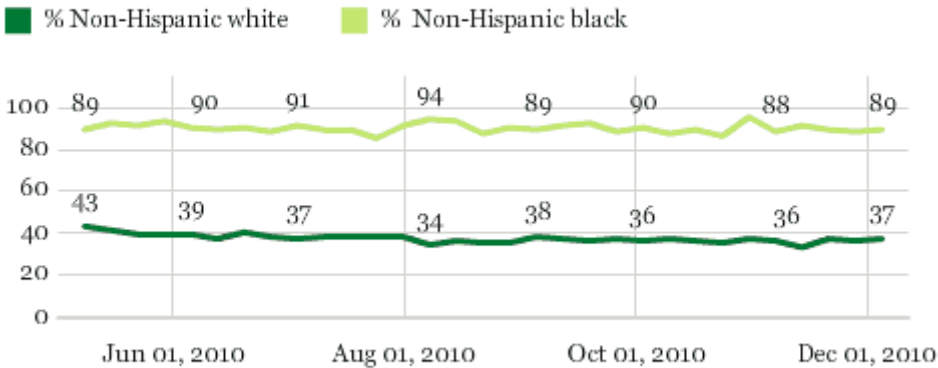


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Racial groups also continue to give significantly different assessments of Obama's job performance. Currently, 89% of blacks approve, compared with 37% of non-Hispanic whites. While no more than 40% of whites have approved of Obama since May, approval among blacks has yet to drop below 85% in any week of his presidency.

Barack Obama Presidential Job Approval Ratings, by Race

Recent Gallup Daily tracking weekly averages



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Implications

Voters took out their frustrations on Obama and the Democratic congressional majority for the state of the nation and their policies in the midterm elections. Since then, Americans' opinions of Obama have changed little, in contrast to most other recent presidents who saw their party lose significant numbers of seats in Congress at the midterm.

Still, Americans remain largely dissatisfied with the state of the nation and more pessimistic than optimistic about the economy. To the extent these attitudes remain negative, Obama may see his support erode.

The political challenge for Obama is to win back enough public support for re-election in 2012. All incumbent presidents since Harry Truman who sought re-election and had an approval rating above 50% won. Ford's 45% approval rating prior to the 1976 election is the most similar to Obama's current 46% approval rating, and Ford was defeated for re-election. To date, George W. Bush in 2004 had the lowest approval rating of a president who successfully won re-election, 48%.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking for the week of November 29-December 5, 2010, with a random sample of 3,071 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

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

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

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

In U.S., Majority Supports Ratification of START Treaty

Fifty-one percent would vote for and 30% against, 19% unsure
December 10, 2010

If given the opportunity to vote on the matter, 51% of Americans would ratify the START nuclear arms agreement with Russia and 30% would vote against it, while 19% are undecided. Maine's two moderate Republican senators publicly announced their support for ratification on Friday morning, although it is still uncertain whether the Senate will vote on the treaty before the end of the year -- as President Obama has urged.

Issue Referendum: Ratification of the Nuclear Arms START Treaty With Russia

Suppose that on Election Day you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against a law that would do each of the following. First, would you vote for or against a law that would ratify the nuclear arms agreement with Russia, called the START treaty?

	% Vote for	% Vote against	% No opinion
2010 Dec 3-6	51	30	19

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The START treaty is one of the potential issues on the lame-duck Congress' agenda, but has to a degree been overshadowed by the focus on tax cuts and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" legislation. Gallup's question about the treaty was included in a series of referendum questions in Dec. 3-6, 2010, Gallup Daily tracking. The question did not measure the degree to which Americans are familiar with the particulars of the treaty, but nevertheless provides a measure of their top-of-mind reactions to the issue of its ratification when described as a "nuclear arms agreement with Russia."

Some Senate Republicans have expressed concerns about the treaty, although former Republican President George H.W. Bush and former Secretary of State Colin Powell have in recent weeks publicly endorsed it. While there are not major partisan differences in support among Americans by party, Democrats are slightly more in favor than Republicans.

*Issue Referendum: Ratification of Nuclear Arms START Treaty With Russia,
by Political Party*

	% Vote for	% Vote against
Democrats	56	28
Independents	51	30
Republicans	49	34

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

GALLUP®

Previous Gallup polling shows that Americans give the START treaty mid-range priority among a list of six issues that the lame-duck Congress could focus on. Forty percent say it is very important that Congress complete action on the START treaty before the end of the year. This places it well below the importance given to action on the estate tax, the Bush tax cuts, and extending unemployment benefits, but above the priority given to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the DREAM Act.

Implications

In addition to the new Gallup referendum question, a number of questions asked by other polling organizations find majority support for the idea of ratifying the START treaty. As an example, a Nov. 29-Dec. 2 CBS News poll asked about the general concept of the U.S. and Russia "coming

to an agreement to limit nuclear weapons," and found 82% support. A CNN/Opinion Research poll conducted in mid-November explicitly reminded respondents that "President Obama and the president of Russia recently signed a treaty to reduce the number of nuclear weapons of each country," and found 73% support for Senate ratification.

Americans attach mid-level importance to ratifying the treaty before the end of the year, suggesting that failure to do so would be less consequential than failure to act on legislation relating to taxes and unemployment.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Dec. 3-6, 2010, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,003 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

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

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

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

Slim Majority of Americans Would Vote for DREAM Act Law

Fifty-four percent favor granting legal status to illegal immigrants brought to U.S. as children
December 10, 2010

Americans are more likely to say they would vote for than against a law that would grant legal status to illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children if they join the military or attend college. This is the major thrust of the DREAM Act legislation Congress is now considering to provide a path to citizenship for thousands of young adults living in the United States illegally.

Issue Referendum: Legal Status for Those Brought to U.S. Illegally as Children if They Attend College or Join Military

Suppose that on Election Day you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against a law that would do each of the following. First, would you vote for or against a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college?

	% Vote for	% Vote against	% No opinion
2010 Dec 3-6	54	42	4

GALLUP®

The DREAM Act, whose formal name is the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, narrowly passed in the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday. The U.S. Senate delayed a scheduled vote Thursday on the bill because Senate leaders did not have the votes necessary to pass it. Its fate is now uncertain as the end of the lame-duck session nears. Congressional supporters, including most Democrats, see the bill as an opportunity for young adults who have proven to be productive members of society to gain legal status. Opponents, including most Republicans, are concerned that the legislation would grant amnesty to those here illegally and may encourage more illegal immigration in the future.

It is not clear to what extent Americans are familiar with the particulars of the DREAM Act, because the legislation has not received as much attention as other issues Congress is dealing with, such as the extension of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. But the poll indicates Americans' top-of-mind responses to a proposal similar to the DREAM Act are more positive than negative.

Reflecting the political divides in Congress on the issue, most Americans who identify as Democrats say they would vote for such legislation if they could do so, while most Republicans would vote against it. Independents' views are more similar to Democrats' than to Republicans' views.

Issue Referendum: Legal Status for Those Brought to U.S. Illegally as Children if They Attend College or Join Military, by Political Party

	% Vote for	% Vote against
Democrats	66	31
Independents	57	38
Republicans	34	63

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

GALLUP®

Non-Hispanic whites are divided as to whether they would vote for legislation similar to the DREAM Act, while nonwhites favor it by a better-than 2-to-1 margin. The poll did not include a

large enough sample of Hispanics to provide reliable estimates of that group's support, though the data suggest they largely favor it.

Support varies by education and age, with younger and more educated Americans the most likely to say they would vote for such legislation, and older and less educated Americans least likely to do so.

Issue Referendum: Legal Status for Those Brought to U.S. Illegally as Children if They Attend College or Join Military, by Key Demographics

	% Vote for	% Vote against
Non-Hispanic white	47	49
Nonwhite	69	26
18 to 34 years old	66	30
35 to 49 years old	53	44
50 to 64 years old	50	45
65 years and older	43	51
High school education or less	44	51
Some college	57	38
College graduate only	59	38
Postgraduate education	66	31

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

GALLUP®

Support for a law similar to the DREAM Act is on the lower end of eight issues Gallup tested in its recent referendum question, and trails that for increasing government regulation of food safety, extending the 2001 and 2003 income tax cuts, extending unemployment benefits, and allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military.

Gallup December 2010 Issues Referenda

Suppose that on Election Day you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against a law that would do each of the following. First, would you vote for or against a law that would ___?

	For	Against
	%	%
Increase government regulation of food safety	75	21
Allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military	67	28
Extend the federal income tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 for all Americans for two years	66	29
Extend unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	66	30
Allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college	54	42
Ratify the nuclear arms agreement with Russia, called the START treaty	51	30
Postpone previously scheduled cuts in the amounts Medicare pays doctors to treat Medicare patients	50	42
Ban all earmarks in bills passed by Congress	46	36

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

GALLUP*

Additionally, a *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted last month found Americans placing a lower priority on legislation to provide a path to citizenship for young adults here illegally, compared with other issues Congress was likely to take up in its lame-duck session.

Implications

Americans are more inclined to support than oppose legislation similar to the DREAM Act now under consideration in the Senate. That legislation would begin to address the status of some illegal immigrants already in the country. The decision to postpone action on the bill could seal its fate. With the American public placing a lower priority on legislation like the DREAM Act, there may not be much external pressure for Congress to act on it before its session ends.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Dec. 3-6, 2010, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,003 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

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with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

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

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

In U.S., 67% Support Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

The most opposition comes from conservative Republicans

December 9, 2010

Lawmakers seeking to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy have a large majority of Americans behind them.

If they had an opportunity to vote on it, 67% of Americans say they would vote for a law that would allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military.

The finding, from a Gallup poll conducted Dec. 3-6, 2010, is consistent with previous Gallup surveys on the issue. More than 60% of Americans since 2005 have said they favor allowing openly gay men and lesbian women to serve in the U.S. military, including majorities of the most conservative segments of the population.

The current findings are based on a question in which Americans are asked whether they would vote for or against several proposals lawmakers are currently considering. It was asked after the release of a major Pentagon study on troops' views about the current ban on openly gay service members and as the lame-duck Congress moved toward legislative action. Defense Secretary Robert Gates testified to Congress on Dec. 2, saying that troops' concerns "do not present an insurmountable barrier" to ending the policy.

The U.S. Senate Thursday, by a 57-40 vote, failed to advance a defense authorization bill considered the best chance for repeal. Still according to *The Washington Post*, senators who support repeal say they may introduce a separate bill on the matter, while gay-rights activists plan to ask President Obama to use his executive powers to keep U.S. courts and military officials from enforcing the current policy.

Rank-and-file Republicans currently are evenly divided on the issue, with the most opposition coming from conservative Republicans. Large majorities of Democrats, independents, and moderate and liberal Republicans are in favor.

Would you vote for or against a law that would allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military?

By party and ideology

	For	Against
	%	%
National adults	67	28
Democrats	81	15
Independents	70	24
Republicans	47	48
Liberal Democrats	86	11
Conservative/Moderate Democrats	79	17
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	69	28
Conservative Republicans	39	57

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

Party/Ideology data include leaners;"pure independents" excluded due to low sample size

GALLUP

Republicans -- and conservative Republicans -- are the only key demographic groups that do not express majority support for legislation allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly. See the findings for more demographic groups on page 2.

Support for DADT Repeal on Par With That for Tax Cuts, Unemployment Benefits

Americans express almost exactly the same level of support for allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military as they do for extending the Bush tax cuts for all Americans for two years and extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed. It would also appear to be an easier sell to the American people than passing the DREAM Act, ratifying the START treaty, postponing Medicare cuts, or banning earmarks.

Gallup December 2010 Issues Referenda

Suppose that on Election Day you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against a law that would do each of the following. First, would you vote for or against a law that would ___?

	For	Against
	%	%
Increase government regulation of food safety	75	21
Allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military	67	28
Extend the federal income tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 for all Americans for two years	66	29
Extend unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	66	30
Allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college	54	42
Ratify the nuclear arms agreement with Russia, called the START treaty	51	30
Postpone previously scheduled cuts in the amounts Medicare pays doctors to treat Medicare patients	50	42
Ban all earmarks in bills passed by Congress	46	36

Gallup, Dec. 3-6, 2010

GALLUP®

Implications

Americans demonstrate steady and widespread support for allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military -- in previous Gallup surveys and in a new question gauging support for a number of legislative proposals currently under consideration. With Defense Secretary Gates and a Pentagon report on the issue both supportive of repeal, arguments for maintaining the policy seem to be increasingly sparse.

Still, despite their support, repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ranks low on Americans' priority list for the lame-duck Congress, suggesting there will likely be little consequence politically for not acting now.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Dec. 3-6, 2010, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,003 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone-only). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline

respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

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

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

Mission in Afghanistan Still Divides Views in the United States

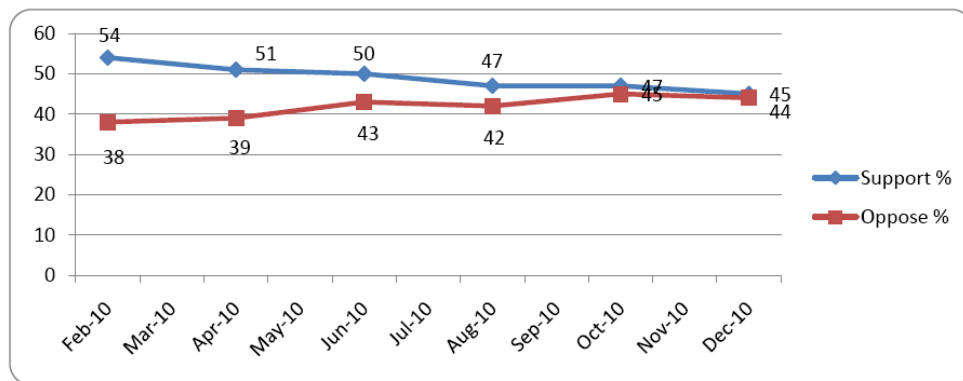
(12/06/10) -

Almost half of respondents mistakenly believe that more than 2,000 American soldiers have died in the military operation.

Americans remain divided on their country's military deployment in Afghanistan, and almost half erroneously assume that more than 2,000 U.S. soldiers have lost their lives in the conflict, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

War in Afghanistan

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving American soldiers in Afghanistan? – Total U.S.



In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,000 American adults, 45 per cent of respondents express support for the military operation (-2 since October), while 45 per cent (-1) oppose it.

The Mission

The proportion of people in the United States who think that engaging the military in Afghanistan was a mistake stands at 38 per cent, six points higher than in April and June. Two-in-five Americans (40%, +3) believe that that the U.S. did the right thing in sending soldiers to Afghanistan.

More than half of respondents (54%, +3) claim that they do not know what war in Afghanistan is all about, whereas 46 per cent (-3) say they do.

War in Afghanistan - TREND					
Do you think the United States made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?					
	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Made a mistake	38%	37%	37%	32%	32%
Did the right thing	40%	37%	39%	40%	40%
Not sure	22%	26%	24%	28%	28%

When the War is Over

The level of undecided respondents in this question has risen to 39 per cent—and only 16 per cent of Americans (-3) expect the U.S. and allied forces to deliver a clear military victory over the Taliban. One-in-four (24%, -4) predict a negotiated settlement from a position of U.S. and allied strength that gives the Taliban a small role in the Afghan government. Fewer respondents foresee either a negotiated settlement from a position of U.S. and allied weakness that gives the Taliban a significant role in the Afghan government (14%, +2) or a military defeat of U.S. and allied forces by the Taliban (7%, +1).

War in Afghanistan - TREND					
Do you feel that you have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about?					
	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Yes	46%	49%	48%	49%	52%
No	54%	51%	52%	51%	48%

Obama's Plan

Three-in-five Americans (60%) express little confidence in the administration of President Barack Obama to “finish the job” in Afghanistan. Only three-in-ten Americans (30%) have confidence in Obama on this particular file.

The Media and the Government

One third of Americans (33%) believe the country's media has not provided enough information about the war in Afghanistan, while a similar proportion (32%) say it has presented the right amount of information. Only 17 per cent of respondents think the media has focused too much on Afghanistan.

Half of Americans (49%) believe the federal government has supplied too little information about the war in Afghanistan. Considerably fewer respondents think the administration has provided the right amount of information (26%) or too much (8%).

War in Afghanistan - TREND					
How confident are you that the Obama Administration will be able "finish the job" in Afghanistan?					
	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Very confident	7%	10%	6%	8%	8%
Moderately confident	23%	18%	19%	22%	25%
Not too confident	30%	29%	33%	33%	27%
Not confident at all	30%	30%	32%	27%	26%
Not sure	11%	10%	10%	10%	13%

Casualties

At the time this survey was conducted, 1,413 American soldiers had died in Afghanistan. Respondents to this survey were asked to enter a numeric response to articulate how many soldiers they thought had perished in Afghanistan since 2001.

Only six per cent of Americans provided a response between 1,334 and 1,666 soldiers. More than a third of respondents (35%) believe that fewer than 1,000 soldiers have died in Afghanistan, while almost half (47%) estimated that more than 2,000 soldiers have died in the conflict.

Methodology: From December 3 to December 5, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,000 randomly selected American adults who are Springboard USA panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Deficit Solutions Meet With Public Skepticism

Consensus in Principle, Resistance in Practice

December 9, 2010

Views of the Deficit

<i>Best describes federal budget deficit ...</i>	%
Major problem, must address now	70
Major problem, address when economy better	23
Not much of a problem	1
Don't know	<u>5</u>
	100
<i>Best way to reduce federal budget deficit ...</i>	
Cutting major programs	16
Increasing taxes	4
Combination of both	65
Not a priority (Vol.)/Don't know	<u>14</u>
	100
<i>Deficit commission's proposals ...*</i>	
Approve	30
Disapprove	48
Don't know	<u>21</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

* Dec. 3-5, 2010 omnibus, based on those who heard a lot or a little about the deficit commission's proposals.

In many respects, there is a broad public consensus when it comes to the federal budget deficit: seven-in-ten say it is a major problem that must be addressed right away, and roughly two-thirds say that the best way to reduce the deficit is through a combination of cutting major government programs and increasing taxes. These views cross partisan lines, with majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents saying we must deal with it now, and that the best approach involves both program cuts and tax increases.

Yet this general consensus evaporates when concrete deficit reduction proposals are tested. And the Bowles-Simpson commission's effort to package spending cuts and tax increases into a comprehensive package has met with far more public opposition than support. Among those who have heard of the deficit commission's proposal, 48% disapprove and just 30% approve.

On Deficit, Obama Has More Credibility than Congressional Leaders

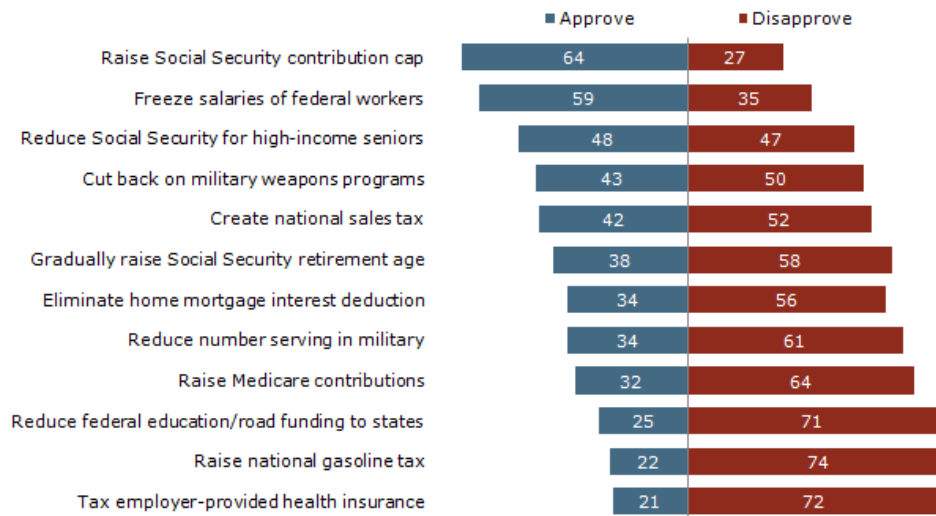
<i>Confidence in each when it comes to dealing with the deficit</i>	Barack Obama	Dem Leaders	Rep Leaders
	%	%	%
Great deal/Fair amount	53	42	40
Not too much/None	44	52	56
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Dec. 1-5 among 1,500 adults finds that the deficit commission is not the only group that faces public skepticism when it comes to deficit reduction proposals. Neither Republican nor Democratic congressional leaders have much credibility on this issue, with majorities saying they have little or no confidence in each when it comes to dealing with the deficit. Obama is viewed more positively, by comparison, with a slim majority expressing at least a fair amount of confidence in his leadership on the deficit.

Most of the major deficit reduction proposals under discussion meet with public disapproval. Particularly unpopular are provisions that would tax the health insurance people receive from their employers (72% disapprove), raise the national gasoline tax (74% disapprove), and reduce federal funding to states for things like education and roads (71% disapprove). Of 12 ideas tested, just two meet with majority approval: increasing the amount of earned income that is subject to Social Security withholding (64% approve) and freezing the salaries of government workers (59% approve); the latter proposal is supported by President Obama and many Republicans.

Little Support for Most Proposals to Reduce the Budget Deficit



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010 Q53a-l.

The public is skeptical that much progress will be made in reducing the deficit in coming

Job Situation Remains the Bigger Concern

<i>Economic issue that worries you most...</i>	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec
	%	%	%	%
Job situation	45	41	49	47
Budget deficit	22	23	19	19
Rising prices	17	16	15	15
Financial/Housing markets	11	13	12	14
Other/DK	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010 Q24.

years.

Just 37% think we will have made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit over the next five years, while 52% think we will not.

And reflecting the broad economic problems facing the nation, the deficit ranks far below the job situation as the biggest economic worry for most people, with no increase in focus on the deficit over the course of the year. In the new survey, 47% cite the job situation as the economic issue that most worries them, while fewer than half as many (19%) cite the budget deficit.

Deficit Solutions: Principle vs. Practice

Most Support Combination of Program Cuts and Tax Increases

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Mostly focus on cutting major programs	16	32	8	14
Mostly focus on increasing taxes	4	1	8	4
Do a combination of both	65	58	72	67
Other/Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	1500	415	481	499

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010 Q51.

There is broad, and bipartisan, agreement that the best approach to reducing the federal budget deficit involves a combination of both government cutbacks and increased taxes. Roughly two-thirds (65%) express this view, including majorities of Republicans (58%), Democrats (72%) and independents (67%). Relatively few Americans (16%) believe that focusing mostly on cutting major government programs is the best approach to take. Even among Republicans, only about a third (32%) say a strategy focused mostly on cutting government is the right line of attack. Even

fewer Americans (4%) believe the best way to reduce the deficit is through a focus on increasing taxes.

Little Support for Deficit Commission Proposals

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Heard about deficit commission's proposal	72	76	74	69
<i>Among those who heard</i>				
Approve	30	16	42	31
Disapprove	48	58	41	48
Don't know	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>22</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	578	160	183	169

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 3-5, 2010 omnibus survey
PEW8f-g.

Yet the recent proposals by a presidentially appointed bipartisan deficit reduction commission have met with far more public resistance than acceptance. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of Americans say they have heard about the commission's proposals, and disapproval outweighs approval by a 48%-to-30% margin among those who heard about them. Republicans, in particular, view the commission's proposals negatively - 58% disapprove and just 16% approve. Democrats are divided about evenly over the commission's proposals (42% approve, 41% disapprove).

Most Specific Proposals Opposed

Of 12 individual proposals for reducing the federal budget deficit, only two -- raising the current cap on payroll tax contributions to Social Security and freezing the salaries of government workers -- receive majority support. Fully 77% of Democrats support making Social Security payroll taxes apply to more of high-earners' incomes, as do 65% of independents. Republicans are less unified, but still about half (53%) back this idea. Freezing the salaries of federal government workers receives roughly the same level of support from Republicans (64%), Democrats (57%) and independents (62%) alike.

Areas of Partisan Agreement and Disagreement

		Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D Gap
Proposals that receive more <u>Democratic</u> support		%	%	%	
Cut back on military weapons programs	Approve	23	53	44	-30
	Disapprove	71	38	50	+33
Raise Social Security contribution cap	Approve	53	77	65	-24
	Disapprove	40	15	26	+25
Tax employer-provided health insurance	Approve	12	28	18	-16
	Disapprove	81	64	77	+17
Reduce number of people serving in the military	Approve	27	42	32	-15
	Disapprove	70	55	63	+15
Raise the national gasoline tax	Approve	17	31	17	-14
	Disapprove	79	68	79	+11
Create a national sales tax	Approve	33	44	47	-11
	Disapprove	62	50	47	+12
<hr/>					
Proposals with no significant partisan divide					
Freeze salaries of federal workers	Approve	64	57	62	+7
	Disapprove	32	37	35	-5
Reduce Social Security for high income seniors	Approve	49	50	50	-1
	Disapprove	46	45	48	+1
Eliminate home mortgage interest deduction	Approve	33	37	33	-4
	Disapprove	60	57	56	+3
Raise Medicare premiums	Approve	37	29	31	+8
	Disapprove	58	67	66	-9
<hr/>					
Proposals that receive more <u>Republican</u> support					
Gradually raise Social Security retirement age	Approve	42	33	42	+9
	Disapprove	50	65	56	-15
Reduce funding to states for roads & education	Approve	30	17	29	+13
	Disapprove	63	81	67	-18

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010 Q53.

Another proposal -- reducing Social Security benefits for seniors with higher incomes -- divides the American public; 48% approve and 47% disapprove with no difference of opinion across party lines.

Two of the largest partisan gaps are on issues related to reducing military spending. Roughly half of Democrats (53%) approve of cutting back on military weapons programs as a way of reducing the deficit; 71% of Republicans disapprove of this idea. Republicans are equally opposed (70%) to reducing the number of people serving in the military. In this case, most Democrats (55%) share this opposition, though by a slimmer margin.

Republicans are also less supportive than Democrats of two tax proposals: a national sales tax and an increase in the gasoline tax. Republicans disapprove of the sales tax idea by a 62%-to-33% margin, while both Democrats and independents are more evenly divided.

On the gasoline tax, both Republicans and independents overwhelmingly reject a higher gas tax as a means of reducing the deficit (79% of each disapprove). Roughly two-thirds of Democrats (68%) also oppose raising the gasoline tax.

Republicans are somewhat more willing than Democrats to rethink Social Security and Medicare benefits in the interest of deficit reduction. While Democrats disapprove of gradually raising the Social Security retirement age by a two-to-one margin (65% disapprove, 33% approve), half (50%) of Republicans disapprove while 42% approve. Republicans also are slightly more supportive of raising the amount people on Medicare contribute to cover their health care costs (37% of Republicans, 29% of Democrats), though most disapprove of this idea across party lines.

Voters Say Election Full of Misleading and False Information

December 9, 2010

Poll Also Finds Voters Were Misinformed on Key Issues

Following the first election since the Supreme Court has struck down limits on election-related advertising, a new poll finds that 9 in 10 voters said that in the 2010 election they encountered information they believed was misleading or false, with 56% saying this occurred frequently. Fifty-four percent said that it had been more frequent than usual, while just three percent said it was less frequent than usual, according to the poll conducted by WorldPublicOpinion.org, based at the University of Maryland, and Knowledge Networks.

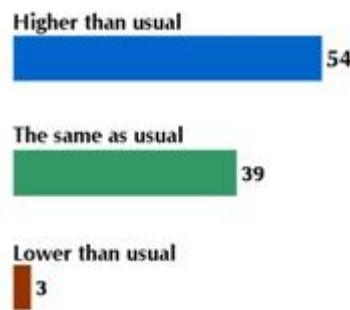
Equally significant, the poll found strong evidence that voters were substantially misinformed on many of the key issues of the campaign. Such misinformation was correlated with how people voted and their exposure to various news sources.

Voters' misinformation included beliefs at odds with the conclusions of government agencies, generally regarded as non-partisan, consisting of professional economists and scientists.

- Though the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concluded that the stimulus legislation has saved or created 2.0-5.2 million jobs, only 8% of voters thought most economists who had studied it concluded that the stimulus legislation had created or saved several million jobs. Most (68%) believed that economists estimate that it only created or saved a few jobs and 20% even

Voters on Level of Misinformation

[Asked of those who said they encountered it at least rarely]
Do you think that the level of misleading or false information was:



WorldPublicOpinion.org

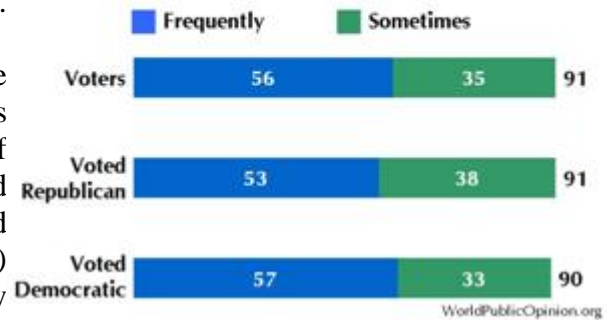
change is not occurring (12%) or that scientists are evenly divided (33%).

Other key points of misinformation among voters were:

- 40% of voters believed incorrectly that the TARP legislation was initiated under Barack Obama, rather than George Bush
- 31% believed it was proven true that the US Chamber of Commerce spent large amounts of money it had raised from foreign sources to support Republican candidates
- 54% believed that there were no tax cuts in the stimulus legislation
- 86% assumed their taxes had gone up (38%) or stayed the same (48%), while only 10% were aware that their taxes had gone down since 2009
- 53% thought that the bailout of GM and Chrysler occurred only under Obama, though it was initiated under Bush

Encountered Misleading Information

In the election that just took place on November 2nd how often did you encounter information that seemed misleading or false?



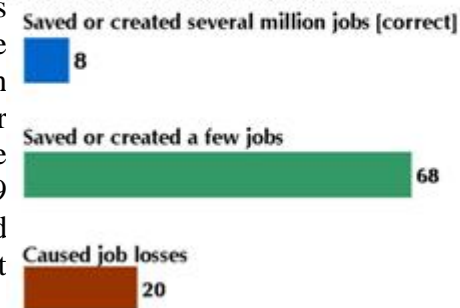
WorldPublicOpinion.org

believed that it resulted in job losses.

- Though the CBO concluded that the health reform law would reduce the budget deficit, 53% of voters thought most economists have concluded that health reform will increase the deficit.
- Though the Department of Commerce says that the US economy began to recover from recession in the third quarter of 2009 and has continued to grow since then, only 44% of voters thought the economy is starting to recover, while 55% thought the economy is still getting worse.
- Though the National Academy of Sciences has concluded that climate change is occurring, 45% of voters thought most scientists think climate

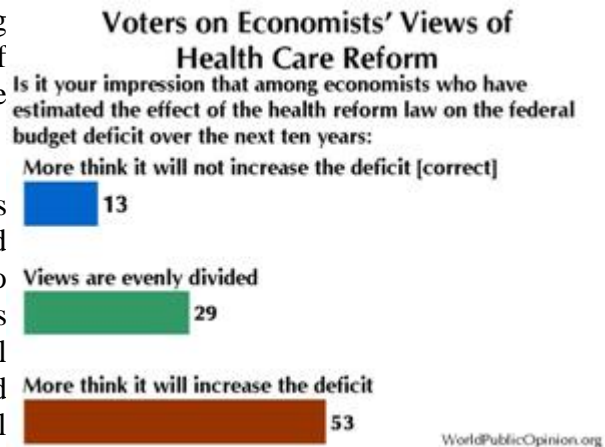
Voters on Economists' Views of Stimulus

Perceptions of Economists' Views of Stimulus-Related Job Creation
Is it your impression that most economists who have studied it estimate that the stimulus legislation:



WorldPublicOpinion.org

Clay Ramsay, of WorldPublicOpinion.org commented, "While we do not have data to make a clear comparison to the past, this high level of misinformation and the fact that voters perceived a higher than usual level of false and misleading information, suggests that the increased flow of money into political advertising may have contributed to a higher level of misinformation."



The poll also found significant differences depending how people voted. Those who voted Republicans were more likely than those who voted Democrat to believe that: most economists have concluded that the health care law will increase the deficit (voted Republican 73%, voted Democrat 31%); the American economy is still getting worse (72% to 36%); the stimulus legislation did not include any tax cuts (67% to 42%); most scientists do not agree that climate change is occurring (62% to 26%); and it is not clear that Obama was born within the United States (64% to 18%)

On the other hand Democrats were more likely to incorrectly believe that: it was proven to be true that the US Chamber of Commerce was spending large amounts of foreign money to support Republican candidates (voted Democrat 57%, voted Republican 9%); Obama has not increased the level of troops in Afghanistan (51% to 39%); and Democrats did not mostly vote in favor of TARP (56% to 14%).

In most cases those who had greater levels of exposure to news sources had lower levels of misinformation. There were, however, a number of cases where greater exposure to a particular news source increased misinformation on some issues.

Those who watched Fox News almost daily were significantly more likely than those who never watched it to believe that most economists estimate the stimulus caused job losses (12 points more likely), most economists have estimated the health care law will worsen the deficit (31 points), the economy is getting worse (26 points), most scientists do not agree that climate change is occurring (30 points), the stimulus legislation did not include any tax cuts (14 points), their own income taxes have gone up (14 points), the auto bailout only occurred under Obama (13 points), when TARP came up for a vote most Republicans opposed it (12 points) and that it is not clear that Obama was born in the United States (31 points). The effect was also not simply a function of partisan bias, as people who voted Democrat and watched Fox News were also more likely to have such misinformation than those who did not watch it--though by a lesser margin than those who voted Republican.

There were cases with some other news sources as well. Daily consumers of MSNBC and public broadcasting (NPR and PBS) were higher (34 points and 25 points respectively) in believing that it was proven that the US Chamber of Commerce was spending money raised from foreign sources to support Republican candidates. Daily watchers of network TV news broadcasts were

12 points higher in believing that TARP was signed into law by President Obama, and 11 points higher in believing that most Republicans oppose TARP.

The poll of 848 Americans was fielded from November 6 to 15, 2010. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.4 percent. It was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel[®], a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel[®]. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, Knowledge Networks provides a laptop and ISP connection. More technical information is available at <http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp/reviewer-info.html>.

WorldPublicOpinion.org is a project managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland and funded by the Calvert Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Nurses Top Honesty and Ethics List for 11th Year

Lobbyists, car salespeople, members of Congress get the lowest ratings

December 3, 2010

Nurses continue to outrank other professions in Gallup's annual Honesty and Ethics survey. Eighty-one percent of Americans say nurses have "very high" or "high" honesty and ethical standards, a significantly greater percentage than for the next-highest-rated professions, military officers and pharmacists. Americans rate car salespeople, lobbyists, and members of Congress as having the lowest honesty and ethics, with the last two getting a majority of "low" or "very low" ratings.

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	% Very low/Low
Nurses	81	16	1
Military officers	73	23	3
Druggists or pharmacists	71	25	4
Grade school teachers	67	24	6
Medical doctors	66	28	5
Police officers	57	33	10
Clergy	53	35	8
Judges	47	37	14
Day care providers	47	41	7
Auto mechanics	28	55	16
Nursing home operators	26	48	24
Bankers	23	48	28
TV reporters	23	47	29
Newspaper reporters	22	49	27
Local officeholders	20	55	24
Lawyers	17	47	35
Business executives	15	52	32
State officeholders	12	49	37
Advertising practitioners	11	48	37
Members of Congress	9	32	57
Car salespeople	7	42	49
Lobbyists	7	29	61

Gallup, Nov. 19-21, 2010

GALLUP®

Gallup has asked Americans to rate the honesty and ethical standards of professions since 1976, and annually since 1991. Gallup first asked Americans to rate nurses in 1999, and that profession has topped the list since then in all but one year, 2001. Firefighters were added on a one-time basis in 2001 to test their image following reports of their heroism after the 9/11 terror attacks; they finished first, at 90%. Nurses still managed a strong 84% honesty and ethics rating that year, tying for their highest ever. Prior to 1999, clergy or pharmacists were usually the highest-rated professions. (For the list of top-rated professions by year, see page 2.)

There has been little meaningful change in the ratings of professions that are measured annually, compared with last year. To the extent there was change -- as in the case of pharmacists (+5), police officers (-6), bankers (+4), and lawyers (+4) -- the ratings have generally returned to the levels of two years ago.

Honesty and Ethics Ratings of Professions Tested Annually, 2008-2010

Figures represent % "very high" or "high"

	2008	2009	2010	Change, 2009-2010 (pct. pts.)
Nurses	84	83	81	-2
Druggists, pharmacists	70	66	71	+5
Medical doctors	64	65	66	+1
Police officers	56	63	57	-6
Clergy	56	50	53	+3
Bankers	23	19	23	+4
Lawyers	18	13	17	+4
Business executives	12	12	15	+3
Advertising practitioners	10	11	11	0
Members of Congress	12	9	9	0
Car salespeople	7	6	7	+1

GALLUP'

The remaining professions tested this year (aside from lobbyists) were last measured in 2007. Americans rate two of these, military officers and nursing home operators, significantly more positively than in 2007, but not necessarily higher than in 2004. Honesty and ethics ratings of grade-school teachers are down significantly (from 74% in 2007 to 67% today); Gallup's only other measurement on that profession, from 2004 (73%), was also more positive than the current rating.

Honesty and Ethics Ratings of Professions Tested Every Third Year, 2004-2010

Figures represent % "very high" or "high"

	2004	2007	2010	Change, 2007-2010 (pct. pts.)
Military officers	72	65	73	+8
Grade school teachers	73	74	67	-7
Day care providers	49	44	47	+3
Judges	53	46	47	+1
Auto mechanics	26	25	28	+3
Nursing home operators	24	21	26	+5
TV Reporters	23	23	23	0
Newspaper reporters	21	22	22	0
Local officeholders	26	20	20	0
State officeholders	24	12	12	0

GALLUP'

State officeholders' current 12% honesty and ethics rating is just one percentage point higher than its all-time low of 11% in 1977 and 1988, and remains down from its high of 24% in 2004.

Implications

Stability is generally the norm in Americans' ratings of the honesty and ethics of professions, but Americans' opinions do shift in response to real-world events, mostly scandals, that reflect poorly on a profession.

For example, bankers' ratings remain well below where they were before the financial crisis began (dropping from 35% in 2007 to 23% in 2008). Members of Congress' ratings have never been high, but their recent ratings rank among the worst in the more than 30-year history of Gallup's honesty and ethics question. Honesty and ethical ratings of the clergy remain depressed, compared with what they were prior to the Catholic priest sex-abuse revelations in the early 2000s.

The consistently most positively rated professions, including nurses and pharmacists, have generally been able to avoid widespread scandals and, as such, Americans continue to hold them in the highest regard.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Nov. 19-21, 2010, with a random sample of 1,037 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

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

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

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

Kennedy Still Highest-Rated Modern President, Nixon Lowest

Jimmy Carter's retrospective approval rating and rank drop from 2006

December 6, 2010

Of the nine U.S. presidents who have served in the past 50 years, John F. Kennedy continues to earn the highest retrospective job approval rating from Americans, now 85%. Ronald Reagan ranks second, with 74%. While these presidents' ratings are largely unchanged from 2006, Bill Clinton's rating has improved, putting him in third place, while Jimmy Carter, at 52%, has dropped from third to sixth. Richard Nixon remains the lowest rated.

Approval of How Past Presidents Handled Their Job -- Recent Trend

% Approve

In order of 2010 results	2006	2010	Change
	%	%	+/-
John F. Kennedy	84	85	1
Ronald Reagan	71	74	3
Bill Clinton	61	69	8
George H.W. Bush ¹	56	64	8
Gerald Ford	60	61	1
Jimmy Carter	61	52	-9
Lyndon Johnson	41	49	8
George W. Bush ²	n/a	47	n/a
Richard Nixon	28	29	1

¹ Question specified George H.W. Bush, president from 1989-1993

² Question specified George W. Bush, president from 2001-2009

Nov. 19-21, 2010

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The Nov. 19-21 Gallup poll asked Americans to say, based on what they know or remember about the nine most recent former presidents, whether they approve or disapprove of how each handled his job in office.

Kennedy has consistently ranked No. 1 in this Gallup measure initiated in 1990. Nixon has almost always come in last, although Lyndon Johnson had the lowest retrospective approval in 1993 and tied with Nixon in 1992. However, given that many Americans have no opinion of Johnson, his disapproval runs much lower than Nixon's. The most notable changes in this year's update are a nine-point drop in Carter's approval rating and eight-point increases in those for Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Johnson.

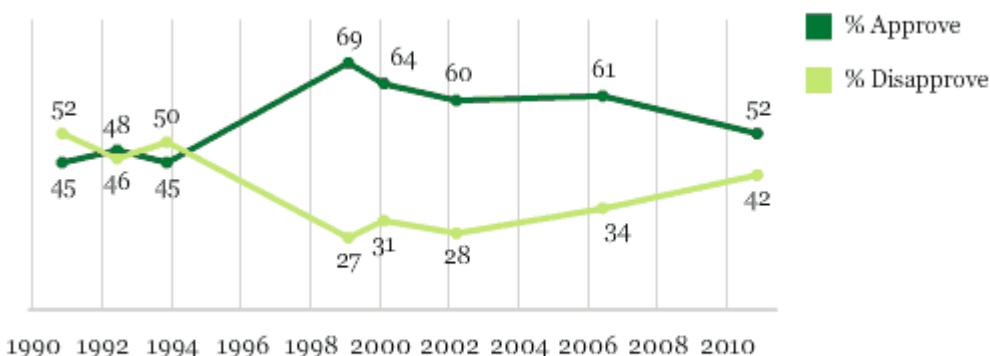
This is Gallup's first retrospective approval measure of George W. Bush since he left office in 2009. His 47% approval and 51% disapproval rating puts him in Nixon's company as the only

two presidents whose retrospective disapproval exceeds their approval, although the balance is much more negative for Nixon: 29% approve and 65% disapprove. For Bush -- whose job approval ratings as president descended into the 20s in his final year -- a 47% retrospective approval is actually relatively positive, as his approval rating as president last reached that level in 2005.

Jimmy Carter Loses More Ground

Carter's retrospective approval rating peaked at 69% in 1999, dropped to 61% in 2006, and is now 52%. While he has maintained fairly high approval from Democrats (80% in 2006 vs. 77% today), he has lost support among Republicans (from 42% to 34%) and independents (from 57% to 47%). These changes may reflect Carter's outspoken criticism of then-President George W. Bush over the Iraq war, at one time calling Bush's presidency "the worst in history" on international matters. Whatever the reason for the decline, Carter remains better regarded today, overall, than he was in the early '90s.

Retrospective Job Approval of Former President Jimmy Carter



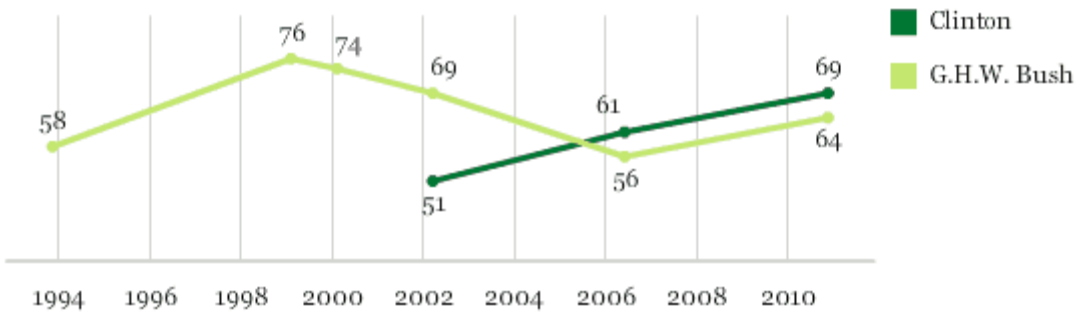
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Perceptions of Clinton and George H.W. Bush Advance

Former president Clinton's retrospective job approval rating has steadily increased in the decade since he left office, from 51% in 2002 to 69% today. By contrast, the man he beat for the job, George H.W. Bush, enjoyed a surge of approval between 1993 and 1999, followed by a slide during his son's presidency. However, with George W. Bush now out of office, approval of the elder Bush has rebounded somewhat.

Retrospective Job Approval of Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton

% Approve



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Retrospective Approval vs. Approval While in Office

Public attitudes about former presidents apparently tend to soften with time, but this is by no means assured.

Six of the nine presidents are now more highly regarded than they were at the end of their presidencies. These include Kennedy, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Gerald Ford, Carter, and George W. Bush. On the other hand, Clinton, Johnson, and Nixon are each currently rated on par with their final job approval rating before leaving office.

An alternate way to evaluate how presidents have fared since they left office is to compare their retrospective approval ratings to their average job approval rating during their presidencies. Kennedy, Reagan, Ford, Carter, and Clinton all have a higher retrospective approval rating today than their average presidential approval ratings. The retrospective ratings for the two Bushes are about the same as their average presidential approval ratings, while those of Johnson and Nixon are lower.

Retrospective Approval vs. Gallup Job Approval Ratings as President

	Average approval rating in office	Final approval rating in office	2010 Retrospective approval rating[^]
	%	%	%
John F. Kennedy	70	58	85
Ronald Reagan	53	63	74
Bill Clinton	55	66	69
George H.W. Bush	61	56	64
Gerald Ford	47	53	61
Jimmy Carter	45	34	52
Lyndon Johnson	55	49	49
George W. Bush	49	34	47
Richard Nixon	49	24	29

[^] Based on Nov. 19-21, 2010, Gallup survey

GALLUP[®]

Bottom Line

Nearly 50 years after Kennedy's assassination, the vast majority of Americans see his presidency in a positive light, much improved from how he was viewed in his final days. The 27-point difference between his final job approval rating and his latest retrospective approval rating far exceeds that of any subsequent president. However, Reagan, Ford, Carter, and George H.W. Bush have enjoyed substantial increases in public approval since leaving office, particularly when they have stayed out of partisan politics. George W. Bush also seems to be benefiting from this tendency in his initial retrospective approval reading, which is up 13 points from his last reading in office. By contrast, Johnson, Nixon, and Clinton are rated similarly to how they were viewed at the end of their terms.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Nov. 19-21, 2010, with a random sample of 1,037 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone-only). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline

respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

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

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

Conservatives Keep Lead in Canada as Liberal Voters Ponder Change

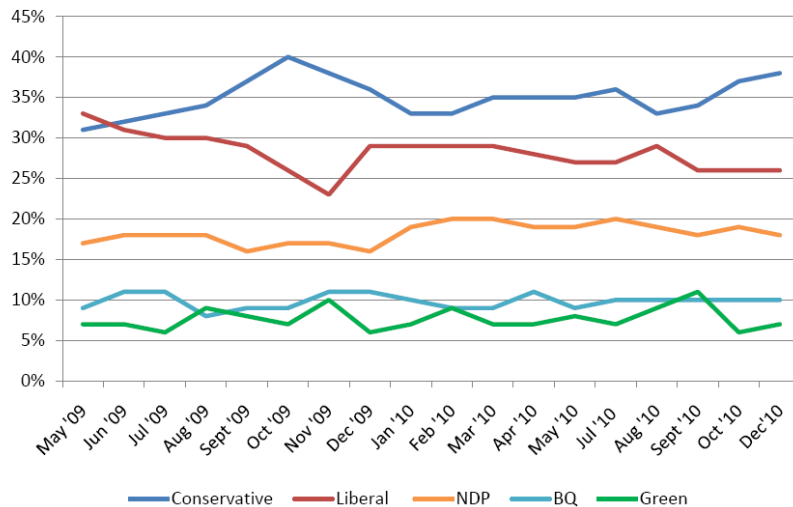
(12/08/10) -

While large majorities of Tory and NDP supporters are content with Stephen Harper and Jack Layton, only 38 per cent of Liberal voters in 2008 would keep Michael Ignatieff at the helm.

The Conservative Party would coast to another minority government if a new federal election were held today, and many Liberal Party supporters in Canada are questioning whether their current leader should be at the helm when the next ballot is called, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion / *Toronto Star* poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,013 Canadian adults, 38 per cent of respondents (+1 since October) would back the governing Conservative Party in the next federal election.

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?



The Liberal Party is second with 26 per cent (=), followed by the New Democratic Party (NDP) with 18 per cent (-1), the Bloc Québécois with 10 per cent (=), and the Green Party with seven

per cent (+1). Stagnation has evidently hit all five federal parties, which are within a point of their totals in the 2008 federal election.

Canadian Political Pulse						
If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?						
	Gender			Age		
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Conservative Party	38%	41%	35%	34%	36%	45%
Liberal Party	26%	27%	24%	23%	27%	27%
New Democratic Party	18%	15%	22%	20%	19%	14%
Bloc Québécois	10%	10%	10%	11%	10%	8%
Green Party	7%	7%	7%	10%	6%	5%
Other party	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%

Regional Breakdowns

Half of voters in Alberta (50%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (51%) continue to express a preference for the Conservatives. In British Columbia, the NDP has dropped to second place with 30 per cent, with the Tories now ahead by nine points.

In Ontario, the Conservatives have extended their advantage over the Liberals (44% to 31%). In Quebec, the Bloc is still ahead (39%), with the three federalist parties far behind (Lib. 19%, Con. 18%, NDP 17%).

Leaders

Respondents across the country were asked if the five main federal parties should keep their current leader or change their current leader before the next federal election takes place. While 44 per cent of Canadians would prefer to see a different person leading the governing Conservatives, Stephen Harper gets a vote of confidence from 79 per cent of those who voted for the Tories in the 2008 federal ballot.

Across Canada, 51 per cent of respondents would keep Jack Layton as leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP), along with 80 per cent of those who voted for the NDP in 2008. Gilles Duceppe posts similar numbers (64% of Quebecers want him to stay as leader, along with 86% of Bloc voters from 2008). Half of Canadians (51%) are undecided on whether Elizabeth May should remain as leader of the Greens, but 64 per cent of those who voted for the Green Party in 2008 would keep her.

The situation is unquestionably different for Michael Ignatieff, with a majority of Canadians (56%) and almost half of Liberal voters in 2008 (46%) claiming that the Grits should change their leader before the next federal election.

Approval and Momentum

The approval rating for each of the three main leaders fell by two points since October. Prime Minister and Conservative leader Stephen Harper stands at 26 per cent this month, NDP leader Jack Layton is at 25 per cent, and Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff is last with 14 per cent.

Layton maintains the best momentum score of the three leaders at -9, followed by Ignatieff with -19 and Harper with -22.

Attributes

Canadians were asked to select up to six words or expressions from a list to describe the four party leaders sitting in the House of Commons. The top five results for each one of the leaders are:

- *Stephen Harper* – *Secretive (43%), arrogant (39%), out of touch (33%), intelligent (34%), boring (30%)*
- *Michael Ignatieff* – *Arrogant (38%), boring (37%), out of touch (37%), inefficient (33%), intelligent (28%)*
- *Jack Layton* – *Intelligent (36%), honest (31%), compassionate (31%), down to earth (29%), open (29%)*
- *Gilles Duceppe* – *Arrogant (31%), out of touch (26%), intelligent (26%), boring (19%), secretive (19%)*

Legislatures

Starting this month, Angus Reid Public Opinion will provide an assessment of the way Canadians feel about various legislative bodies. One third of respondents (33%) approve of the way the House of Commons is handling its job, while 43 per cent disapprove. The rating is decidedly lower for the Senate of Canada (Approve 23%, Disapprove 47%). Just about three-in-ten Canadians (28%) endorse the way their provincial legislature is performing, while half of respondents (51%) disapprove.

Analysis

As a whole, the Canadian electorate did not go through a major shift over the past month, with the Conservatives still entrenched in “minority government” territory and the opposition parties practically stagnant.

The survey does provide sobering news for Michael Ignatieff, whose negative attributes have increased markedly this time around—including the proportion of Canadians who see him as out of touch, weak and inefficient—and with almost half of Liberal voters in 2008 calling for a change before the next election is called.

Methodology: From December 6 to December 7, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,013 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Saskatchewan People Rank Global Poverty as Top Global Issue

(12/08/10) -

Large majority of respondents in the Canadian province are also eager to help alleviate poverty in the world.

A new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found that 44 per cent of Saskatchewan residents rank global poverty, in terms of hunger and lack of access to water, as the most important global issue facing the world today.

Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation

From this list of global social issues, please indicate which you personally feel are the 3 most important.

Total Saskatchewan	
Global Poverty in terms of Hunger/Clean Water	44%
Trade/Economic Issues	38%
Human Rights /women's rights (Justice Issues)	31%
Environmental Degradation	32%
Natural Disasters	18%
Infant/Child Mortality	15%
Nature Conservation	13%
Animal Conservation	7%
Disease Protection	20%
Arms Trade/Arms Control	5%
Political Stability	24%
Terrorism	38%
World Drug Trade	10%

Trade and economic issues, as well as terrorism, are cited by 38 per cent of respondents as the most pressing global concerns. Environmental degradation (32%) and human rights/women's rights (31%) are ranked next.

Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation

Which of the following, if any, have you done to help those in need internationally in the past 12 months?

Total Saskatchewan	
Donate funds	57%
Volunteer time through a local international development NGO	3%
Volunteer time through local social service agencies	10%
Write letters to politicians	7%
Get informed (via internet, reading, social networks etc.)	45%
Attend information sessions	6%
Volunteer to work overseas	2%
Talk to others about these issues	38%
Other	4%
None of the above	24%

The online survey of a representative provincial sample of 827 Saskatchewan adults, conducted on behalf of the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC), found that Saskatchewan residents want to participate in solving global issues.

Two-in-five respondents (40%) would like to personally address global poverty—17% cite a “strong” desire to help; 60 per cent feel that everybody has a responsibility to help those in need; and over a third (36%) feel better about themselves when they contribute to other people’s well-being. Three-in-ten feel a personal responsibility to people who are suffering.

In the past year alone, most Saskatchewan residents (57%) have donated funds to help those in need, 45 per cent stay informed about international need, and 38% talk to others about these issues.

Saskatchewan vs. Rest of Canada

A parallel poll conducted at the national level with 1,013 Canadian adults in all provinces but Saskatchewan found that residents of Saskatchewan are more likely than others to want to personally address global poverty before other issues. In the rest of Canada, the most popular issues are nature conservation (47%) human rights/women’s rights (46%), and animal conservation (40%). But global poverty is not far behind: 36 per cent of Canadians want to personally play a role in solving it, compared to 40 per cent of Saskatchewanians who feel the same way.

Role of Provincial Government and the Saskatchewan Matching Grants in Aid Program

A large majority of Saskatchewan respondents support provincial government involvement in addressing global poverty issues—either by cooperating with local international development NGOs and the federal government (43%), or by supporting local international development NGOs in their work (36%).

Most respondents (56%) think Saskatchewan’s reputation would improve both nationally and internationally if the provincial government increased its efforts to help end global poverty. Also,

75 per cent of Saskatchewan residents think the work of Canadian NGOs help the country look good internationally.

For 36 years, the Saskatchewan Government has partnered with the Federal Government and local NGOs and SCIC through the Provincial “Matching Grants in Aid Program”. Funds raised at the local level are matched by the province and this combined funding is then matched again by the Canadian International Development Agency. Every dollar a Saskatchewan resident contributes through one of SCIC’s member agencies results in at least \$4 being spent in the field overseas.

While the majority of Saskatchewan residents were not aware of the Provincial “Matching Grants in Aid Program”, they are very supportive of the principle of a federal-provincial-NGO matching funding program: Most Saskatchewan residents (52%) support this program after hearing about it—32 % “highly support” it.

To learn more about the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC), click here.

Methodology: From September 16 to September 17, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,013 randomly selected Canadian adults (excluding residents of Saskatchewan) who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. From September 15 to September 17, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 827 randomly selected Saskatchewan adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada and that of Saskatchewan. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

LATIN AMERICA

U.S. Leadership Ratings Suffer in Latin America

Approval still up from Bush era

December 10, 2010

U.S. leadership approval fell significantly in half of the 18 Latin American countries Gallup surveyed in 2010, taking the largest hits in Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, and Honduras. Approval did not change significantly in the other half. After an initial surge when President Barack Obama took office, median approval fell to 44% in 2010 from 51% in 2009, but still remains up from 35% in 2008.

Approval of U.S. Leadership in Latin America

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

	2008	2009	2010	Change from 2008 (pct. pts.)	Change from 2009 (pct. pts.)
Chile	29%	59%	62%	33	3
Uruguay	13%	53%	45%	32	-8
El Salvador	36%	68%	62%	26	-6
Costa Rica	33%	62%	54%	21	-8
Argentina	11%	42%	31%	20	-11
Brazil	23%	48%	43%	20	-5
Mexico	24%	53%	40%	16	-13
Peru	34%	47%	50%	16	3
Bolivia	22%	40%	38%	16	-2
Dominican Republic	35%	55%	49%	14	-6
Panama	47%	63%	60%	13	-3
Paraguay	19%	28%	31%	12	3
Colombia	48%	60%	58%	10	-2
Ecuador	35%	42%	44%	9	2
Venezuela	35%	50%	40%	5	-10
Guatemala	40%	45%	44%	4	-1
Honduras	47%	54%	44%	-3	-10
Nicaragua	45%	42%	40%	-5	-2

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Approval of U.S. leadership is most favorable this year in Chile, El Salvador, and Panama, where 6 in 10 or more say they approve, and lowest in Paraguay and Argentina at 31%. However, it is important to note that disapproval does not exceed one-third in any country, and significant percentages do not express an opinion.

Approval of U.S. Leadership in 18 Latin American Countries

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know/ Refused
Chile	62%	18%	20%
El Salvador	62%	15%	23%
Panama	60%	13%	27%
Colombia	58%	20%	23%
Costa Rica	54%	12%	34%
Peru	50%	21%	29%
Dominican Republic	49%	12%	39%
Uruguay	45%	20%	36%
Ecuador	44%	16%	39%
Guatemala	44%	20%	36%
Honduras	44%	23%	34%
Brazil	43%	19%	38%
Mexico	40%	29%	31%
Venezuela	40%	32%	29%
Nicaragua	40%	18%	43%
Bolivia	38%	28%	35%
Paraguay	31%	17%	52%
Argentina	31%	27%	42%

June-August 2010

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Latin Americans' predictions about relations between Latin America and the United States with Obama at the helm support the general decline in leadership approval in Latin America. In 2010, a median of 33% of Latin Americans say the relationship between Latin America and the United States would strengthen with Obama, down 10 percentage points from 2009. It also represents a shift from 2009, when a plurality said relations would strengthen; in 2010 similar percentages say relations will strengthen or remain the same. Still, less than 10% expect the relationship to weaken.

Do you think the relationship between Latin American countries and the United States will strengthen, remain the same, or weaken with President Barack Obama?

Regional median of 18 countries

	Strengthen	Remain the same	Weaken	Don't know/Refused
2009	43%	28%	6%	21%
2010	33%	31%	9%	23%
Change from 2009 (pct. pts.)	-10	3	3	2

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Bottom Line

After the April 2009 Summit of the Americas, many of Latin America's leaders expressed optimism about future relations with Obama and the United States. However, since then the U.S. has focused heavily on domestic issues and other pressing international issues such as the war in Afghanistan. Gallup data indicate a perceived letdown in 2010 among residents in Latin American countries, including in some key partner countries such as Mexico.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in each country for each year reported in this article. For results based on each sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 3.2 percentage points to a high of ± 4.1 percentage points.

AUSTRALASIA

Large swing against the ALP 45% (down 7.5%) to L-NP 55% (up 7.5%)

Finding No. 4615 - This telephone Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted over the last two nights December 8/9, 2010, with an Australia-wide cross-section of 550 electors.: December 10, 2010

In the first poll conducted since the 'Wikileaks', the telephone Morgan Poll finds support for the ALP has slumped 7.5%. On a two party preferred basis ALP support is now 45% to L-NP's 55%.

In the telephone Morgan Poll conducted over the last two nights, December 8/9, 2010, the ALP primary vote is 30% (down 10.5%), behind the L-NP 47% (up 5%). Support for the minor parties shows the Greens 13.5% (up 1.5%) and Others/ Independents 9.5% (up 4%). If a Federal election were held now the L-NP would easily win Government.

Despite the dramatic loss in support for the ALP, an increased majority of Australians (57.5%, up 5%) are confident that Australia is ‘heading in the right direction,’ compared to 30.5% (up 3%) that say Australia is ‘heading in the wrong direction. Therefore the Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating is up 2 points to 127.

The latest **weekly Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating** for the weekend of December 4/5, 2010, was 120.9 (up 0.3 pts in a week).

Gary Morgan says:

“Today’s special telephone Morgan Poll shows a huge surge away from the ALP (45%, down 7.5% since the Face-to-Face Morgan Poll conducted on the weekends of November 20/21 & 27/28, 2010) to now be well behind the L-NP (55%, up 7.5%) on a Two-Party preferred basis.

“The telephone Morgan Poll is the first poll conducted since the the Wikileaks controversy — involving Australian citizen Julian Assange.

“It must be noted that, telephone polls are good at capturing the response to current events and are typically more responsive to current events, than Face-to-face polls, and the controversy this week over Wikileaks have been very prominent in the media.

"The Wikileaks and associated controversy and drama surrounding Assange and the Gillard Government’s response appear to have deeply hurt the ALP Government’s standing in the community."

Electors were asked: *“If a Federal Election for the House of Representatives were being held today — which party would receive your first preference?”*

This telephone Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted over the last two nights December 8/9, 2010, with an Australia-wide cross-section of 550 electors.

The telephone Morgan Poll is conducted using the same methodologies used by other major telephone polls — Nielsen, Newspoll, Galaxy.

Margin of Error

The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Percentage Estimate</u>			
	<u>40%-60%</u>	<u>25% or 75%</u>	<u>10% or 90%</u>	<u>5% or 95%</u>
500	±4.3	±3.8	±2.6	±1.9
1,000	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4

1,500	±2.5	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
2,000	±2.1	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0

During the period:

- **Liberal Leader Ted Baillieu sworn in as Premier of Victoria**
Liberal Party Leader Ted Baillieu has been sworn in as Victoria's new Premier, taking the oath of office in a ceremony at Government House days after Victoria's cliff-hanger election.

- **John Brumby steps down as Labor leader**

Former Victorian Premier John Brumby has announced he will step down as the state's Labor leader following his party's defeat at Saturday's election (Saturday November 27, 2010).

- **RBA leaves interest rates unchanged at 4.75%**
The Reserve Bank of Australia has left interest rates unchanged at 4.75% on the first Tuesday in December after a surprise rate rise on Melbourne Cup day. The RBA is not scheduled to meet again until the first day of February 2011.

- **Australia grows at only 0.2% during the September Quarter**
The Australian economy grew only .2% during the September Quarter of 2010, well below expectations for an 0.4% gain. This meant the Australian economy grew by 2.7% over the year to September, down from annual growth of 3.3% after the previous quarter.

- **WikiLeaks disclosures an 'attack on the world'**
United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has described the release by WikiLeaks of confidential US documents as an "attack on the international community." Enigmatic Wikileaks founder, Julian Assange, turned himself in to British police in relation to Swedish "sexual molestation" charges earlier this week. Charges which the Swedes strenuously denied were linked to Wikileaks sharing of confidential information.

- **New Zealand to pause for mine disaster victims**
New Zealand Prime Minister John Key has asked for New Zealanders to observe two minutes' silence to remember the 29 miners who lost their lives in the Pike River mine disaster.

- **Qantas A380 cleared to fly**

Qantas has cleared one of its Airbus A380s for a flight to London following a special safety inspection, as tests for a manufacturing flaw are carried out on a second of the airline's superjumbos.

- **Locusts swarm across Victorian border**
Medium and high density locust swarms have made their way into Victoria even as

flooding rains engulf much of the nation — including the States of New South Wales, SA, Queensland and Victoria.

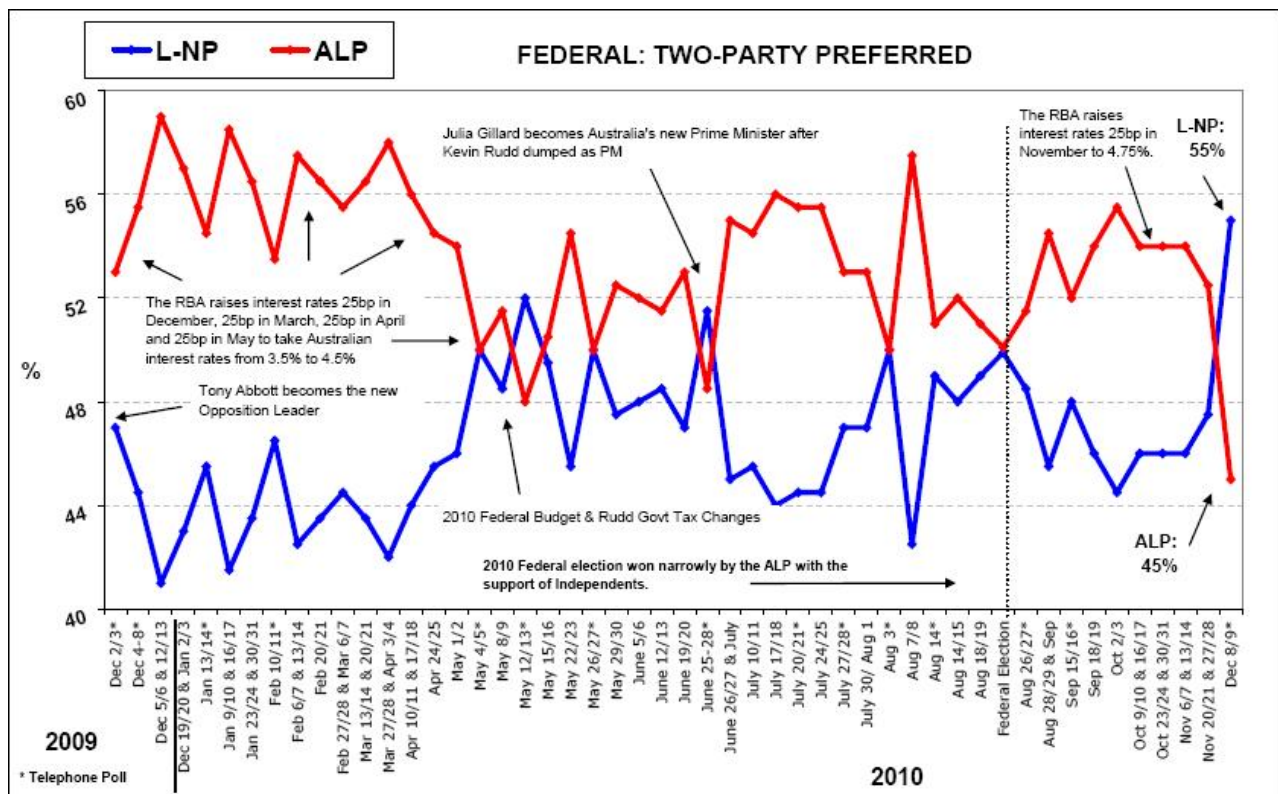
- **Australia misses out on FIFA Soccer World Cup**
Australia failed with its best shot of landing the FIFA World Cup in decades with the tiny Persian Gulf nation of Qatar being awarded the right to host the 2022 tournament. The head of the English 2018 World Cup bid (won by Russia) has warned his country, the United States and Australia against future bids until FIFA reforms its voting process.

TWO-PARTY PREFERRED VOTE (%)

	<u>ALP</u>	<u>L-NP</u>		
	%	%		
Election, March 2, 1996	46.4	53.6		
Election, October 3 [^] , 1998	51	49		
Election, November 10, 2001	49	51		
Election, October 9, 2004	47.3	52.7		
Election, November 24, 2007	52.7	47.3		
Election, August 21, 2010	50.1	49.9		
	Preferences distributed by how electors say they will vote		Preferences distributed by how electors voted at the 2010 election	
	%	%	%	%
<u>MORGAN POLL</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>L-NP</u>
August 22/23, 2010 (SMS)	50.5	49.5	50.5	49.5
August 25/26, 2010 (Phone)	51.5	48.5	51	49
August 28/29 & September 4/5, 2010 (Face)	54.5	45.5	54.5	45.5
September 15/16, 2010 (Phone)	52	48	50.5	49.5
September 18/19, 2010 (Face)	54	46	53.5	46.5
October 2/3, 2010 (Face)	56.5	43.5	55.5	44.5
October 9/10 & 16/17, 2010 (Face)	55	45	54	46

October 23/24, 30/31, 2010 (Face)	54	46	54	46
November 6/7 & 13/14, 2010 (Face)	54.5	45.5	54	46
November 20/21 & 27/28, 2010 (Face)	52.5	47.5	52.5	47.5
December 8/9, 2010 (Phone)	45	55	45	55

^ 1998 Federal Election results have been updated to include results from the electorate of Newcastle supplementary election. The L-NP did not have a candidate contesting the electorate of Newcastle.



THINK WILL WIN

Respondents were asked: "Regardless of who you'd like to win, who to you THINK will win the next Federal Election - the Liberal-National Coalition or the Labor Party?"

<u>Think Will Win</u>	<u>ALP</u>	<u>L-NP</u>	<u>Can't Say</u>
	%	%	%
August 25/26, 2010 (Phone)	33.5	42	24.5
August 28/29 & September 4/5, 2010 (Face)	43	37.5	19.5
September 15/16, 2010 (Phone)	34	42.5	23.5
September 18/19, 2010 (Face)	38.5	43.5	18
October 2/3, 2010 (Face)	41	40	19

October 9/10 & 16/17, 2010 (Face)	43	41.5	15.5
October 23/24 & 30/31, 2010 (Face)	41.5	42	16.5
November 6/7 & 13/14, 2010 (Face)	42	41.5	16.5
November 20/21 & 27/28, 2010 (Face)	39	45	16
December 8/9, 2010 (Phone)	30	58.5	11.5

AUSTRALIA HEADING IN “RIGHT” OR “WRONG” DIRECTION

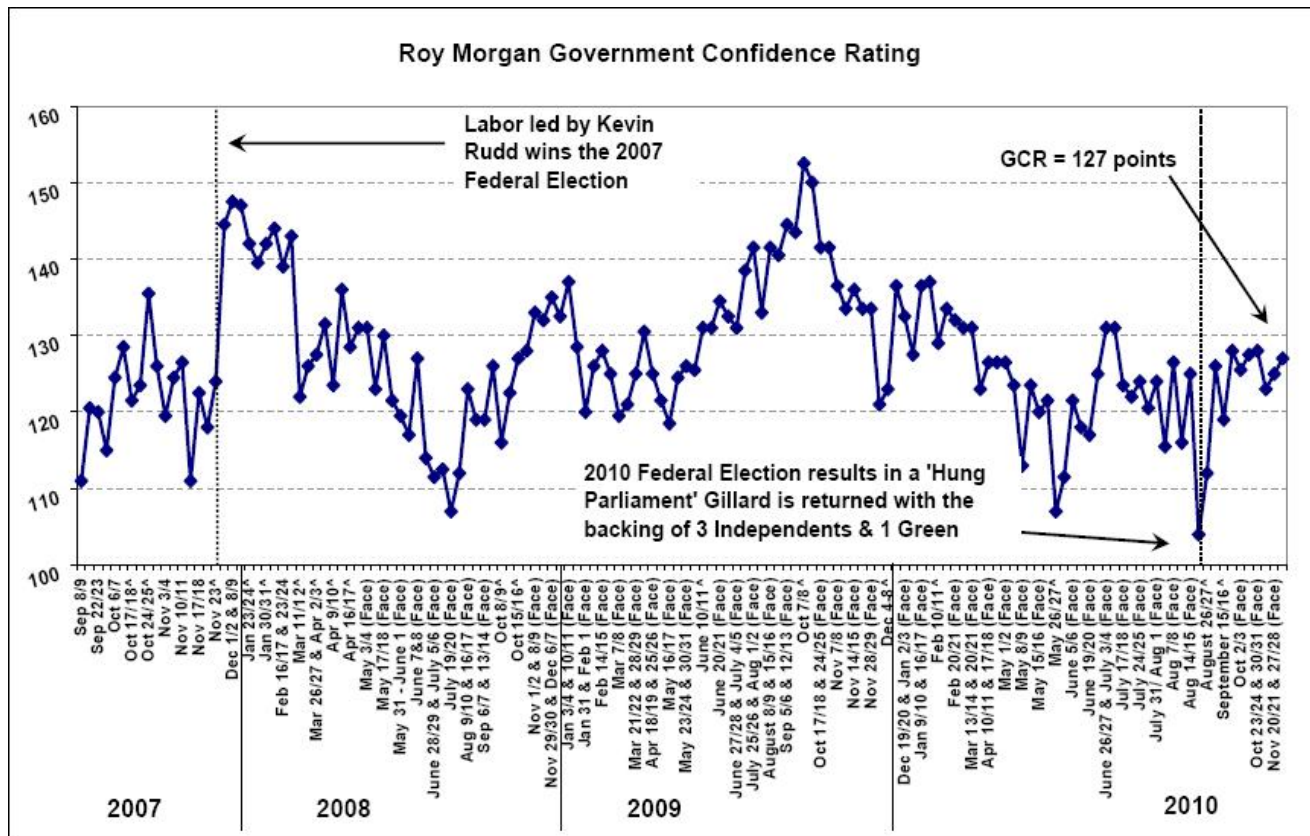
Electors were asked: “Generally speaking, do you feel that things in Australia are heading in the right direction or would you say things are seriously heading in the wrong direction?”

Interviewing Dates — ALP Government (Julia Gillard v Tony Abbott)									
	June		July		July		July		Aug
	25-28	& 3/4	10/11	17/18	20/21	24/25	27/28	31/ Aug 1	3
	Phone	Face	Face	Face	Phone	Face	Phone	Face	Phone
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	54.5	55.5	54.5	52	54.5	51	51.5	52	50
Wrong direction	29.5	24.5	23.5	28.5	32.5	27	31	28	34.5
Roy Morgan									
GCR*	125	131	131	123.5	122	124	120.5	124	115.5
Can't say	16	20	22	19.5	13	22	17.5	20	15.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Interviewing Dates — ALP Government (Julia Gillard v Tony Abbott)								
	Oct			Nov			Dec	
	Sep 15/16	Sep 18/19	Oct 2/3	Oct 9/10	Oct 23/24 & 30/31	Nov 6/7 & 13/14	Nov 20/21 & 27/28	8/9
	Phone	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Face	Phone
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	50	53.5	53.5	54	54	52	52.5	57.5
Wrong direction	31	25.5	28	26.5	26	29	27.5	30.5
Roy Morgan								
GCR*	119	128	125.5	127.5	128	123	125	127
Can't say	19	21	18.5	19.5	20	19	20	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Phone: Telephone survey method; Face: Face-to-face survey method.

* Roy Morgan GCR = Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating (100 plus the difference between the percentage of people who say the country is “going in the right direction” and the percentage who say the country is “going in seriously the wrong direction”).



Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only, and assume a simple random sample. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Percentage Estimate</u>			
	<u>40%-60%</u>	<u>25% or 75%</u>	<u>10% or 90%</u>	<u>5% or 95%</u>
500	±4.5	±3.9	±2.7	±1.9
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.6	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
2,000	±2.2	±1.9	±1.3	±1

Note: The recent discussion on Possum Pollytics regarding Morgan and Newspoll is well worth reading.

The following included comment says it all: “I find it interesting that for the only poll in the last five years for which there is any ‘real’ figure with which to compare, i.e. the polls immediately before the 2004 election, Morgan (45.5%) was closer to the actual Coalition Primary (46.7%) than Newspoll (45%) or Nielsen (49%), and Morgan (38.5%) was also closer to the ALP actual primary (37.6%) than Newspoll (39%), and only marginally further away than Nielsen (37%). Since we have no idea of how far away the ongoing polls are from ‘reality’ (whatever that means), surely we should just go with what we know, that in the most recent testable case, Morgan was better at forecasting the actual primary vote than Newspoll. On what possible basis should we decide that the Newspoll or Nielsen primary vote estimate is ‘better’ than Morgan’s.”

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Half of Americans Condemn WikiLeaks Release; Britons and Canadians Split

(12/09/10) -

People in the three countries think the release of classified cables will damage diplomatic relations between the U.S. and other countries.

The online publication of thousands of classified documents has been decried by half of Americans, but people in Canada and Britain are not as strong in their condemnation of the actions of WikiLeaks, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of representative national samples shows that practically half of respondents in the United States (47%) are following the WikiLeaks story “very closely” or “moderately closely”, compared to 44 per cent in both Canada and Britain.

Half of Americans (51%) believe WikiLeaks as wrong to publish tens of thousands of classified U.S. diplomatic cables, while one-in-five (19%) agree with its actions.

The views of respondents in the other two countries are definitely more nuanced. In Canada, 36 per cent of respondents say WikiLeaks was wrong, while 30 per cent claim it was right. Britain posts very similar numbers, with 38 per cent of respondents stating that WikiLeaks was wrong, and 33 per cent saying it was right.

At least three-in-five respondents in the three countries believe the release of these documents will damage diplomatic relations between the U.S. and other countries (BRI 65%, CAN 61%, USA 60%) and majorities also state that the release of these documents will make it harder for the U.S. to advance its foreign policy goals (BRI 60%, USA 59%, CAN 57%). However, while three-in-five Americans (62%) fear that the WikiLeaks release will put people’s lives at risk, including U.S. diplomats and soldiers, this view is shared by about half of Britons (51%) and Canadians (48%).

The WikiLeaks Justification

In August, a spokesman for WikiLeaks justified the website’s actions, stating: “Knowledge about ongoing issues like the war in Afghanistan is the only way to help create something like safety.

Hopefully with this understanding, public scrutiny will then influence governments to develop better politics.”

A third of Americans (32%) agree with this justification, while almost half (47%) disagree with it.

Methodology: From November 30 to December 5, 2010 Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,005 Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists, 1,000 American adults who are Springboard America panellists, and 2,002 British adults who are Springboard UK panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for Canada and the United States and 2.2% for Great Britain. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada, the U.S. and Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

U.S. Approval Stable at 50% in European Union

Ratings differ in "new" and "old" EU

December 7, 2010

While the honeymoon period after President Barack Obama's election ended in some parts of the world this year, median U.S. leadership approval remained stable at about 50% in the European Union between 2009 and 2010. Approval did drop significantly in 2010, however, in countries where the effects of the global financial and economic crisis remain severe, including Greece, Ireland, and Portugal.

U.S. Approval in the European Union

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

	Approve 2010	Disapprove 2010	Don't know/ Refused 2010	Change from 2008*	Change from 2009**
Ireland	63%	15%	21%	+40	-17
Netherlands	62%	24%	15%	--	--
Denmark	57%	18%	25%	+33	-4
Luxembourg	55%	30%	16%	+32	--
France	55%	19%	27%	+42	+3
Hungary	54%	12%	33%	+15	--
United Kingdom	54%	19%	27%	+30	-10
Spain	54%	18%	29%	+45	0
Finland	53%	31%	17%	+27	--
Italy	51%	11%	38%	+32	+2
Sweden	50%	27%	23%	+39	+9
Lithuania	50%	14%	36%	+25	+3
Germany	50%	40%	10%	+33	-7
Romania	47%	11%	42%	--	0
Austria	45%	34%	22%	+37	-1
Czech Republic	43%	22%	35%	--	+1
Bulgaria	43%	15%	42%	--	--
Portugal	40%	6%	54%	+30	-11
Poland	36%	31%	33%	0	+4
Slovenia	35%	39%	27%	--	-23
Slovakia	33%	25%	42%	--	--
Malta	30%	7%	63%	+9	--
Belgium	30%	23%	48%	+18	--
Greece	28%	49%	23%	--	-13
Cyprus	24%	32%	44%	--	-3
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--
Latvia	--	--	--	--	--

*Surveys conducted December 2008/January 2009 in Luxembourg, Poland, Czech Republic, and Hungary.

**Surveys conducted December 2009/January 2010 in Austria, Portugal, and Poland.

-- Data not available for comparison.

GALLUP®

EU citizens' continued approval of U.S. leadership stands in striking contrast to President George W. Bush's last year in office. That year, a minority in every EU country surveyed approved of

U.S. leadership, ranging from less than 10% in Spain and Austria to 39% in Hungary. Median approval was 19%. Disapproval rates neared the three-quarter mark in the Netherlands and Austria (74% and 73%, respectively).

Public opinion in the European Union transformed with Obama's election. During his first year in office, the lowest approval rate of U.S. leadership in the European Union was 32% in Poland and the highest was 80% in Ireland. Median approval soared to 47%. The 2010 median of 50% reflects a continuation of that higher level of approval.

Ratings Differ in "New" and "Old" European Union

Approval of U.S. leadership has not been uniform across the European Union. Notably, there is a divide in how the "old" and "new" EU member states perceive U.S. leadership. The "old" European Union -- which includes long-time allies such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany -- was more critical of U.S. leadership in 2008 (with a median approval rate of 17%) and more supportive after (52% in 2009 and 2010).

The "new" European Union -- which includes former Eastern bloc countries such as Poland and Hungary -- was relatively less critical of U.S. leadership before Obama, with a median approval rate of 25% in 2008. The increase in approval was less dramatic; it reached 41% in 2009 and 43% in 2010.

Bottom Line

Despite Europeans' less-than-enthusiastic support for U.S. presence in Afghanistan (according to Pew Global Attitudes polls), and their own leaders' differences with Obama, the general public is still far more supportive of U.S. leadership under the Obama administration than it was prior to his election.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face and telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in each EU member state for each year reported in this article. The most recent approval measures in 2010 were collected between May and August 2010. For results based on each sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 3.5 percentage points to a high of ± 4.0 percentage points.

Corruption Is World's Most Talked About Problem

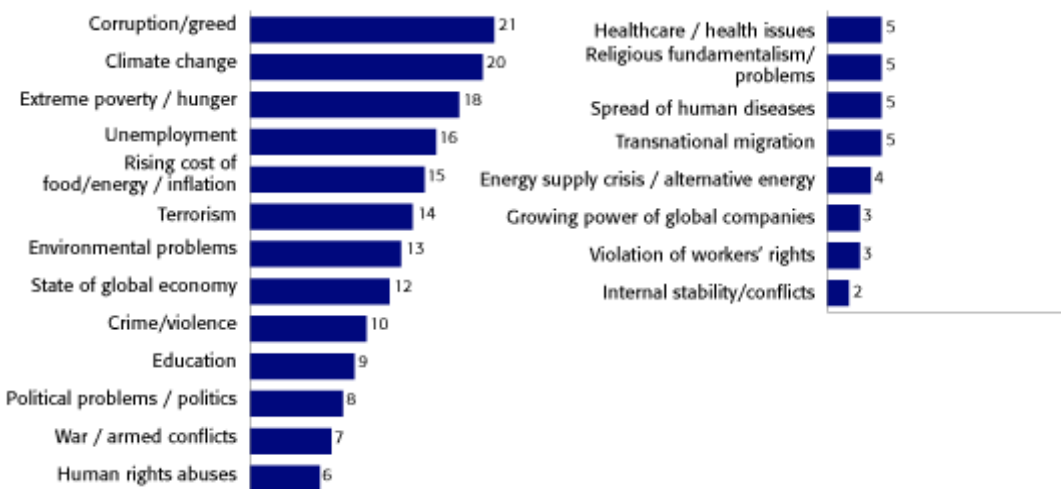
December 09, 2010

Corruption is the world's most frequently discussed global problem, according to a new BBC poll surveying more than 13,000 people across 26 countries.

The findings show that more than one in five (21%) of those polled said they had discussed corruption and greed with friends and family over the past month, making it the most talked about global problem, ahead of climate change (20%), extreme poverty and hunger (18%), unemployment (16%), and the rising cost of food and energy (15%).

Most Talked About Global Issues

Unprompted, Combined Mentions, Average of 26 Countries, 2010



Issued on UN International Anti-Corruption Day, the BBC World Speaks poll, conducted by GlobeScan on behalf of BBC World Service, showed corruption was particularly likely to have been discussed by developing-world citizens, including respondents in Kenya (63%), Nigeria (49%), Indonesia (45%), and India (30%). But significant numbers in industrialised countries like Italy (14%), Spain (13%), and Canada (11%) had also discussed it.

In a separate question, respondents were also asked to rate the seriousness of 14 global problems. As well as being the most talked about issue, corruption was also rated as the second most serious problem, with 68 per cent on average rating it as very serious. Only extreme poverty was rated as more serious (69%). Poverty thus emerged as the most serious perceived global problem for the second year in succession.

Majorities in all but four of the countries polled rated corruption as a very serious problem, with Brazilians (96%), Egyptians (91%), Colombians (88%), Filipinos (87%) and Kenyans (86%) most likely to rate it as very serious, but it was also rated among the most serious issues in China (73%), the USA (68%), Russia (67%) and India (66%). In Europe, Italians were the most concerned about corruption (72%).

After corruption, environmental pollution (64% very serious), terrorism (61%), human-rights abuses, and the rising cost of food and energy (both 59%) were rated as the next most serious issues.

The results are drawn from a survey of 13,353 adult citizens across 26 countries and the poll was commissioned by the BBC to understand which global issues they consider most serious. It was conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan. GlobeScan

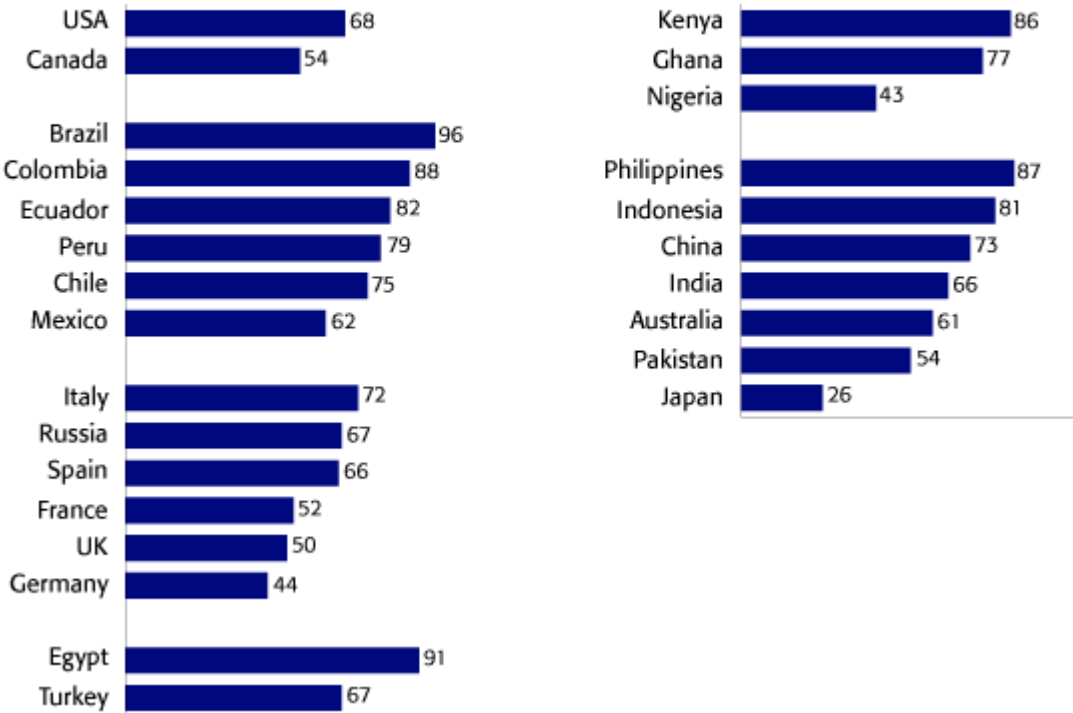
coordinated fieldwork between June and September 2010. Results within countries are considered accurate within +/- 3.0 to 4.9 per cent 19 times out of 20.

GlobeScan Research Director Sam Mountford said: “It’s clear from this poll that people around the world view corruption as a major issue in their lives. It’s the number one most talked about global problem, and rated the second most serious.

“We shouldn’t be surprised that people are venting their frustration about a problem that often stops governments getting to grips with the raft of other serious challenges that they are now seen to be facing.”

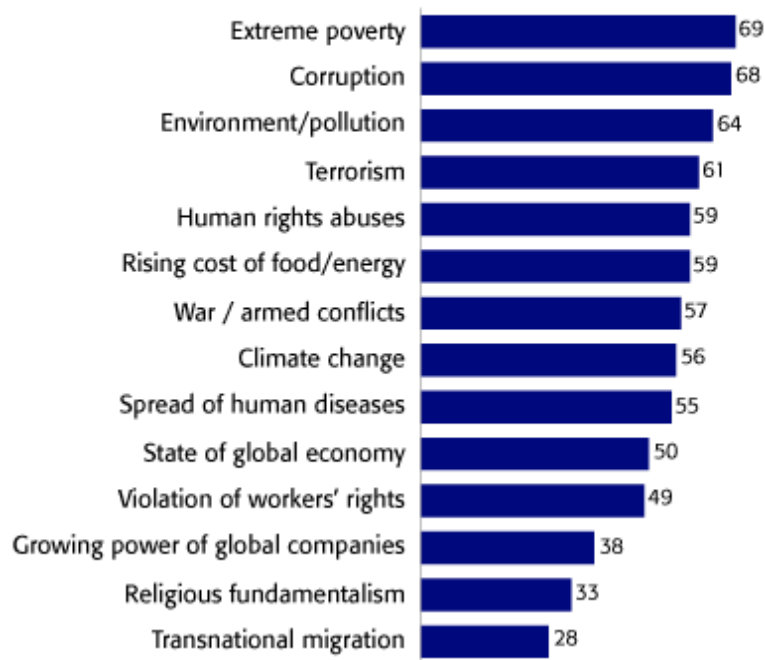
Seriousness of Global Problems: Corruption

“Very Serious,” by Country, 2010



Seriousness of Global Problems

"Very Serious," Average of 26 Countries, 2010



In Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Turkey urban samples were used.

Further Findings

Climate Change Concern Drops

Climate change was rated as only the eighth most serious issue, with 56 per cent considering it a very serious global problem. The findings show that concern about climate change has diminished significantly in almost all of the world's major industrialised nations since the perceived failure of the Copenhagen summit at the end of 2009—but that more people than before in key emerging economies like China, Brazil, India, and Russia now see climate change as a very serious global problem.

Compared to 2009, the proportions seeing climate change as very serious fell in countries including the UK (down 12 points), the USA (down 7 points), France (down 11 points), Canada (down 11 points), Germany (down 6 points), Spain (down 18 points), and Japan (down 12 points). However, the proportions seeing it as very serious climbed in developing nations including Brazil (up 7 points), China (up 9 points), Russia (up 10 points), and India (up 19 points).

China vs US

In China, 27 per cent said they had talked about climate change over the previous month, twice as many as the next most discussed issues (other environmental problems at 14%, corruption and the state of the global economy, both at 13%). In contrast, Americans were much more likely to

have talked about the state of the global economy (33%), with 15 per cent saying they had discussed climate change with their friends and family over the previous month, 15 per cent mentioning terrorism, and another 15 per cent mentioning other environmental problems.

In total 13,353 citizens in 26 countries were interviewed face-to-face, online (for Japan only), or by telephone between June 24 and September 18, 2010. Polling was conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan and its research partners in each country. In nine of the 26 countries, the sample was limited to major urban areas. The margin of error per country ranges from +/- 3.0 to 4.9 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Environmental Concern, Not Economy, Top Issue Facing Mining Industry: Global Poll

London, Tuesday 7 December 2010 – A recent global survey confirms that environmental concerns (40%), closely followed by social concerns (28%), continue to be the top sustainable development issues for the mining and metals industry agenda.

The 2010 Stakeholders' Views of Mining and Sustainable Development survey (following previous surveys in 2004 and 2007) was conducted by GlobeScan on behalf of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) between August and September 2010. Over 800 respondents in 80 countries drawn from the private sector, public sector, institutions, academia, non-governmental organizations and the media participated in the survey.

Also receiving high mention are other non-financial issues including governance and regulation matters (27%), water usage (17%), and resource access/management (16%). These opinions were commonly expressed across survey respondents.

As in 2007, respondents expect environmental and social concerns will continue to be important for the industry to address. Financial concerns (13%) are considered less serious than environmental and social issues. Meeting market demands is no longer a top mention, as it was in 2007.

The survey also suggests ICMM is having a major impact encouraging advances in sustainable development amongst its global members and broader industry. In particular, a strong majority of respondents (92%) believe ICMM is helping raise industry standards.

“ICMM is regarded unusually highly in terms of effectiveness and influence in raising the standards and performance of both its members and its industry,” says Rob Kerr, Vice President of GlobeScan.

ICMM President Anthony Hodge says, “The results of the survey are encouraging. We often hear suggestions that the mining and metals industry falls short when it comes to sustainable development and responsible business practices, but the survey suggests that the work we are doing with our member companies to improve sustainable development performance is being recognized.”

“However, this does not mean we should be complacent—people are rightly telling us to reinforce our efforts to promote transparency, respect the values of surrounding communities and enhance the contribution of mining and metals to people and the environment.”

About the Survey

This is the third stakeholder survey since 2004 that ICMM has commissioned and had conducted by GlobeScan. The main objective of the survey is to measure awareness of ICMM and the effectiveness of ICMM in relation to its mandate.

The release findings are based on a sample of 847 respondents, drawn from ICMM's database of senior-level stakeholders from 81 nations, across six pre-defined sectors (private sector, public sector, institutions, academia, non-governmental organizations, and media). The online survey was fielded between August 24, 2010 and September 18, 2010.

About ICMM

The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) was established in 2001 to act as a catalyst for performance improvement in the mining and metals industry. Today, the organization brings together 18 mining and metals companies as well as 30 national and regional mining associations and global commodity associations to address the core sustainable development challenges faced by the industry. ICMM serves as a change agent—not in areas affecting competitive positioning, but related to our members' social and environmental responsibilities where collaboration makes sense. Our vision is one of leading companies working together and with others to strengthen the contribution of mining, minerals, and metals to sustainable development. www.icmm.com

Students in Europe Negative About World Situation

Madrid, December 2, 2010- The BBVA Foundation presents the findings of its “**International University Students Study**”, based on a broad-ranging survey of the lives and opinions of university students in six European countries with reference to their degree courses and their personal and work prospects.

This international study breaks new ground in examining the views and perceptions of the university students segment across a wide group of countries and with a large sample size (3,000 cases per country) supporting disaggregation by branch of knowledge.

This is the BBVA Foundation's fourth study of the university population. The three earlier rounds (2003, 2004, 2006) were confined to Spain, but it was decided this year to enlarge the geographical catchment to France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Empirical information was gathered through 3,000 face-to-face interviews in each of the six countries (around 18,000 interviewees in all) with students having completed at least two years of studies belonging to Category 5A of the ISCED classification (UNESCO)¹. Fieldwork was conducted by IPSOS between the months of March and June 2010. The design and analysis of the study are the work of the **BBVA Foundation's Department of Social Studies and Public Opinion**.

According to the latest data published by Eurostat², the EU-27 countries have a university population (including bachelor's, master's and doctorate cycles) of approximately 19 million people. The United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy and Spain (together with Poland) are the countries with most students (more than two million in all except Spain, which has around 1.7

million), and together account for over 50% of the total higher education population within the European Union.

Higher education today confronts the twin challenges of gathering globalisation – and its repercussions for knowledge markets, labour markets and competition between institutions – and the onward march of the knowledge society. In a society characterised by the development and intensive application of knowledge and the demand for increasingly complex skills, higher education has a vital part to play as a transmitter of scientific and technological content and analytical and professional skills.

Other very present factors like the economic crisis, public spending cuts in education and research, and the lack of employment opportunities in certain countries, with the consequent migration of human capital, must of course condition the outlook for today's students and tomorrow's university graduates.

The process of European convergence in the higher education area is intimately connected with the aforementioned challenges of globalisation and the knowledge society, and is also a fundamental ingredient of the new map being drawn for Europe's universities. The interviews on which this study is based were carried out in the thick of the Bologna Process, which lays the groundwork for the construction of a European Higher Education Area and thereby the compatibility and convergence of the region's university systems. Differences in the structure and organisation of national university sectors means the European convergence process has placed different demands on each. In the United Kingdom, for instance, universities have traditionally followed a cycle framework resembling that proposed for the European Higher Education Area. In Spain, conversely, although the old diploma/degree/doctorate structure is being phased out in favour of the new model, implementation will not be complete until 2012.

In Spain, the methodological and organisational transformation brought by this convergence process comes to join the many radical changes that have swept the system in past decades, characterised by the quantitative expansion of centres, the transfer of powers in tertiary education to the autonomous communities and the creation of private universities.

In an increasingly knowledge-based society, university students will shortly become a majority professional segment. And an understanding of their views and values can inform and help shape institutional responses to this all-important public. Also, given that the goals of Bologna are to provide citizens with choices from a transparent and comparable range of courses, to promote student mobility and to give higher education a genuine European dimension it is vital to know which points unify and differentiate the academic experience in individual countries and what each one offers in terms of future opportunities.

This study examines the views and perceptions of students with reference to the differences between countries and branches of study. Its analysis extends over two major dimensions, the first touching on more general aspects and values and the second referring to matters more strictly within the academic sphere:

I. Personal life. Values, religiosity and ethics: assessment of world, national and personal situation, ideological self-identification, religious membership and religiosity, views on the universality and application of ethical principles, acceptance of emerging social conducts giving rise to controversy.

II. Views and experience of the university: student profile, personal and financial independence, sources of student finance, reasons for choice of degree course and university, satisfaction with degree course and university (education, teaching staff, facilities, services), study patterns, study materials, attitudes towards the European Higher Education Area, feelings about research in the university, future plans and job expectations.

KEY FINDINGS

PERSONAL LIFE. VALUES, RELIGIOSITY AND ETHICS

- Against today's backdrop of economic crisis, students are negative overall about the world situation, divided in their views on the national outlook (predominantly positive in Sweden, the United Kingdom and Germany and negative in Spain, France and Italy), and **positive on the personal score**.
- University students in the six countries analysed tend to occupy a **centre-left** position on the ideological self-identification scale.
- **The majority belong to some religion, but express a low degree of religiosity.** The exception is the Italians with an average of 5.1 on a religiosity scale from 0 to 10 (where 0 means not religious at all and 10 means very religious). Swedes and Spanish score lowest by this measure (2.7 and 3.2 respectively).
- **University students are not ethical relativists, but accept that moral principles can be flexibly applied as the situation demands:** a majority believe there are clear ethical principles of what is right and wrong. The consensus in most countries however is that ethical principles should be applied "according to the circumstances of the moment". Swedish students are most in favour of this flexible approach, with Italians expressing the most reservations.
- **Social conducts arousing controversy and rejected by some religions meet with wide acceptance among university students:** from living as a couple without being married, divorce or being a single parent through to same-sex marriage, euthanasia and, rather less so, adoption by homosexual couples and abortion. Sweden and Spain occupy the upper reaches of the acceptance map in regard to these conducts.
- **Major divergences in acceptance of practices contravening intellectual property rights,** like downloading music and films from the Internet without paying, illegally downloading software and installing copies of programmes. This kind of conduct is viewed with lenience in Spain and, to a lesser extent, in Sweden, Italy and France, while ambivalence or rejection dominate in the United Kingdom and Germany.
- A large majority of university students in all the countries surveyed see it as unacceptable to copy material from the Internet without citing the source, copying in an exam or presenting other people's work as if it were their own.

VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY

- Consistent with their positive feelings about their personal situation (not so that of the world or their country), students affirm that **“being a higher education student is a privilege nowadays”**, **“gives you an outlook on life different from everyone else’s”** and **“leaves you better prepared to get on in life”**.
- **Differences in degree of independence:** a majority of students in Italy and Spain have not moved away from the parental home (around 70%) and tend not to be in paid work (with only around a third working in both countries). At the other extreme, students in Sweden, followed by the Germans and British and, some way behind, the French, tend to live independently of their families. Most Germans and over half of Swedes combine their studies with some kind of paid employment
- **Italian and Spanish students are the most reliant on their families for help in meeting their outlays** (73% and 70% respectively), while grants or financial assistance are of marginal importance only, and loans almost non-existent. The family is also the main source of income for a majority in France (50%) and a plurality in Germany (43%), though note that a large number of Germans (31%) draw the funds for their studies from some kind of paid work. In the United Kingdom and Sweden, finally, financing sources are more diversified.
- **Students base their choice of degree course on vocational rather than instrumental considerations.** Over 50% in all countries spontaneously state that they enrolled for their current course because **“it was the one I liked best”**. The existence of better employment prospects is only a reason of weight among students of economics and legal sciences.
- **The choice of where to study rests mainly on practical considerations** (nearness to home, the only university offering the desired degree course) in contrast to more competitive models, like the U.S. university system, where the centre’s prestige and quality plays a determining role. Spanish students are the likeliest of all to choose their centre for reasons of proximity.
- In some countries, overall satisfaction with the university experience coexists with a perceived **mismatch between their expectations and the realities of training for professional life**. Only 4 of every 10 students in Spain, Italy and France believe that higher education institutions prepare students well for their future professional lives, compared to 7 out of 10 Britons and 5 out of 10 Germans and Swedes. How students rate the university’s success in training for professional life is also strongly conditioned by their branch of study: in almost all countries, students taking health sciences or technical degrees are likelier to think that universities prepare students well for professional life, while students of social sciences and arts and humanities tend to stress their shortcomings in this respect.
- **The share-out of hours devoted to academic activities (study, classwork) differs widely by country: a reflection of two starkly contrasting educational styles.**
 - o Students in Sweden and Italy (around 20 hours on average) followed by Britain (19 hours) devote most time to personal study in a standard week, with Germany occupying an intermediate position (16 hours) and France and Spain bringing up the rear (13 and 13.5 hours respectively).

- o Classwork takes up more hours per week for students in Germany, Spain and France.
- o The hours spent in theory classes far outnumber those spent in practical classes across the European countries in the sample.
- o Overall, personal study and classroom hours tend to balance each other out. Thus the students who spend most hours studying in the course of a standard week (those in the United Kingdom, Sweden and Italy) tend to spend less time in class; while those studying fewer hours (in Spain, France and Germany), have a busier classwork schedule.

- **Students see research as a key goal of higher education, but perceive little information or encouragement to take up a research career.** Teaching staff, it seems, are not making an organised effort to encourage students into research. Students declare themselves unfamiliar with the research their professors are pursuing and unconvinced of receiving any stimulus to do research work. So while they see research as one of the key goals of higher education, a majority do not feel well enough informed to contemplate a research career.

- Although a majority believes that research carries a lot of prestige, they also see researcher salaries as not that attractive and consider that the work itself requires more effort than other professions.

- University students are generally **upbeat about their chances of finding a job that fits their qualifications** on completing their degree. Confidence runs high in all survey countries, from the Swedes at the top (average of 8.4 on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it is not very likely and 10 that it is very likely) down to the Spanish with 6.8.

Students of health sciences and engineering, manufacturing and construction tend to be most optimistic, while those doing arts and humanities are more moderate in their expectations.

- **Forming a family is a clear aspiration** for students, with a majority saying they would like to form a steady couple and have children at some point in their lives.

CYBERWORLD

Blogs and Twitter Talk WikiLeaks

December 9, 2010

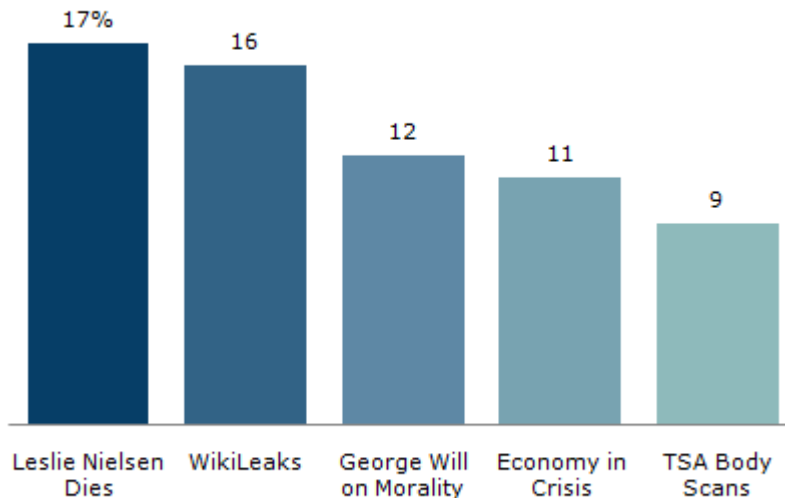
The raging controversy over the leak of classified State Department cables generated major attention in both the blogosphere and Twitter last week. The responses highlight the differing emphases of bloggers and Twitter users.

For the week of Nov. 29-Dec. 3, fully 16% of the news links on blogs and 24% on Twitter were about WikiLeaks, according to the New Media Index from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. That made it the No. 2 topic on both blogs and Twitter.

Attention among social media users even tracked closely with that of the mainstream press, where the topic also ranked No. 2 last week, according to PEJ's News Coverage Index, at 16% of the newshole.

Leslie Nielsen and WikiLeaks Lead Blog Links

Percent of Links



Top Stories the Week of November 29 – December 3

PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S PROJECT FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

Bloggers responded to a number of stories about WikiLeaks last week. But the one linked to most often was a Nov. 29 Washington Post column by Marc Thiessen. In the column, Thiessen accused the Obama administration of failing to stop the release of the documents and offering a weak response once they went public.

The bloggers that responded largely agreed with Thiessen, voicing criticism of Obama and of government overall.

"Where was the Obama administration the last two times that Wikileaks posted classified information?" wrote Silvio Canto Jr. "Why didn't Pres BO 'blow up' the last two times and demand a review of controls over this classified information? Who is minding the store? It is not Pres BO!"

"We trust our Government to protect us," griped Mad Mike, "Looks like they can not protect themselves. They are too busy running every detail of your life. It is really simple."*

"Inaction is tacit acceptance of the destructive and criminal activities of WikiLeaks," grumbled the Quipster, "A lack of leadership is clearly on display from the White House."

Some bloggers chose to blame the media. "It is craven malfeasance that nobody in the Fourth Estate has issued a mea culpa for their failure of duty in service to this republic," wrote Pascal Fervor.

On Twitter, although the subject was the same, the focus was markedly different. The stories linked to here were not politically focused. Instead, most related to either technological or international aspects of the leak.

The greatest number of links was to a Nov. 28 [BBC article](#) about computer hackers attacking the WikiLeaks site shortly before the release of documents. Other technology-related stories shared on Twitter included a Dec. 1 [Associated Press article](#) about how Amazon forced WikiLeaks to stop using its computers to distribute documents and a Dec. 2 [Wired piece](#) about the introduction of anti-WikiLeaks legislation that would make it a federal crime for anyone to publish the name of a U.S. intelligence source.

The international angles highlighted here included an article about leaked information regarding [China's frustration](#) with military actions of North Korea and its readiness to accept Korean reunification and a story on [Interpol's 'red notice'](#) for the arrest of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

WikiLeaks Data Dump Drives News

December 7, 2010

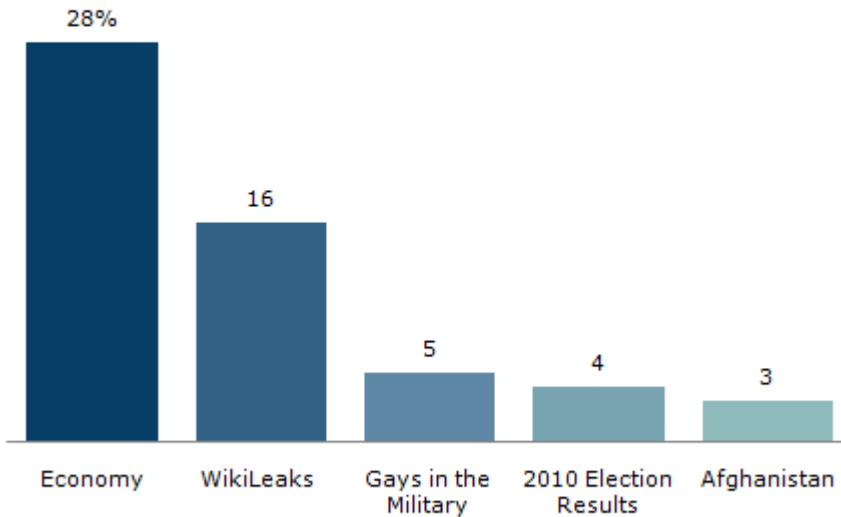
Two topics dominated the news agenda last week. Attention to the economy reached its highest level in 20 months and a major document dump cemented WikiLeaks' status as a significant newsmaker.

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 5, the economy accounted for 28% of the newshole studied, according to the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. That represents the most coverage devoted to the subject since the week of March 23-29, 2009 (43%), shortly after Barack Obama became president when Treasury Sec. Tim Geithner unveiled his plan to clean up "toxic assets" in banks.

Three events drove last week's economic coverage -- negotiations over the fate of the expiring Bush-era tax cuts, the debt commission vote on its proposal to reduce the deficit and a surprisingly gloomy jobs report late in the week.

Economy and Wikileaks Lead the News

Percent of Weekly Newshole



News Coverage Index, November 29 – December 5, 2010

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The release of thousands of State Department cables by the WikiLeaks site was the No. 2 story of the week, filling 16% of the newshole in PEJ's News Interest Index, which includes the front pages of newspapers, a sampling of cable news, talk and news radio, the top stories on news websites, and morning and evening broadcast news programs. This marks the third time since the summer that WikiLeaks' dissemination of classified documents has been a top five story. (Information about the Afghanistan war accounted for 13% of the newshole from July 26-Aug. 1 and material pertaining to the Iraq conflict filled 2% of the newshole from Oct. 18-24.)

Last week's WikiLeaks saga included two key components. One was the reaction to the released material and its potential impact on U.S. diplomacy. Another was an intensified focus on the site's founder Julian Assange, who was called a "high tech terrorist" by one American politician and found himself the target of an Interpol search in connection with a sexual assault case.

Attracting significantly less attention, the third biggest story of the week (5%) was the continuing debate over repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for gay servicemen and women. Coverage was driven by the release of a Pentagon report surveying military personnel about the issue and Capitol Hill hearings on the subject.

That was followed by the continuing fallout from the 2010 midterm elections, which made up 4% of the newshole studied. Some of the commentary focused on the agenda for the newly strengthened Republican Party. Afghanistan was the No. 5 story of the week (3%), which included coverage of an attack that killed six Americans and President Obama's surprise visit to the country on Dec. 3.
