

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This week report consists of 27 surveys. 4 of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 23 are national surveys from various countries.

155-28 **Commentary:**

MACEDONIA- Soaring Food Prices Hitting Macedonians Hard

January 19th 2011

Reports from **Macedonia** (*Balkan Insight*) say that prices of basic consumer products (e.g. bread, milk, vegetables and fruit) are continuously climbing. This is no surprise; the UN FAO Price Index is at its highest since it began back in 1990. However, with prices of sugar, oils & fats at record levels, the impact in **Macedonia** could be worse than that in many other countries. The latest Gallup Balkan Monitor (GBM) data showed that a quarter (24%) of **Macedonians** had experienced times in the last 12 months when they could not afford to buy food for themselves and family.



Across the Balkans, only **Albania** and **Kosovo** (27% and 29%, respectively) had worse figures. Furthermore, just under three-quarters (72%) of **Macedonians** said they could only manage on their household's income with "difficulty" or with "great difficulty". **Macedonia**, together with **Serbia**, has continuously had more people in this position since the GBM started polling in 2006.

This constant struggle to survive is impacting the way **Macedonians** feel about their lives in general. On a scale of 0 to 10, **Macedonians** gave their lives a score of 4.2 – the lowest in the region. The 2010 score was 0.3 points down from that in 2006. Only the *Bosnian Federation* has seen a steeper drop in life satisfaction in this time: from 5.1 in 2006 to 4.7 in 2010 (still 0.5 points higher than **Macedonia**).

The government has said it will consider selling its reserves of food and other goods if food prices continue to climb and increase social unrest. This might work for a period of time; the government does appear to inspire confidence. In the recent GBM poll, 39% felt that the **Macedonian** government was doing a "good" or "excellent" job. Only **Montenegro** with 47% had better figures in the region. §



SOURCE: <http://www.balkan-monitor.eu/>

155-29 **MACEDONIA:**



MACEDONIA:

Population: 2,072,086 (July 2010 est.)

GDP per Capita (PPP): \$9,100 (2009 est.)

Macedonia gained its independence peacefully from Yugoslavia in 1991. Greece's objection to the new state's use of what it considered a Hellenic name and symbols delayed international recognition, which occurred under the provisional designation of "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia." In 1995, Greece lifted a 20-month trade embargo and the two countries agreed to normalize relations. The United States began referring to Macedonia by its constitutional name, Republic of Macedonia, in 2004 and negotiations continue between Greece and Macedonia to resolve the name issue. Some ethnic Albanians, angered by perceived political and economic inequities, launched an insurgency in 2001 that eventually won the support of the majority of Macedonia's Albanian population and led to the internationally-brokered Ohrid Framework Agreement, which ended the fighting by establishing a set of new laws enhancing the rights of minorities. Fully implementing the Framework Agreement and stimulating economic growth and development continue to be challenges for Macedonia, although progress has been made on both fronts over the past several years.

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

SUMMARY OF POLLS

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

More Than Half (52%) Of All Pakistanis Believe That Media Plays A Constructive Social Role

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan , more than half (52%) of all Pakistanis consider media to be a source of awareness as opposed to 29% who disagree. (Gallup Pakistan)

January 20, 2011

Pakistanis Believe Country Can Survive Without IMF Loans

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, almost three fourth of all Pakistanis (74%) believe that Pakistan can survive without taking loan from IMF as opposed to 25%, who say taking loan is essential for Pakistan's survival. (Gallup Pakistan)

January 20, 2011

EAST EUROPE

Soaring Food Prices Hitting Macedonians Hard

The latest Gallup Balkan Monitor (GBM) data showed that a quarter (24%) of Macedonians had experienced times in the last 12 months when they could not afford to buy food for themselves and family. Across the Balkans, only Albania and Kosovo (27% and 29%, respectively) had worse figures. (Gallup Balkan Monitor)

January 19, 2011

Riots On Manege Square: Unrest Or Protest Action?

Majority of Russians are aware of riots on Manege Square. 43% are well informed about that, other 42% heard about that in general. Twelve percent do not know anything about the riots. Two thirds of Russians would not support the participants of the riots on Manege square. No way would the majority of respondents take part in such actions. (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)

January 20, 2011

Putin-Medvedev Tandem: Three Years Later

The attitudes of Russians towards those who rule the country have considerably changed compared to that of 1994 and 2000. Russians thought that the ruling politicians were concerned about their financial well-being and career (53% in 1994, 44% in 2000). Currently, the politicians are perceived as a good team leading the country in the right direction (42 versus 5% in 1994). Nevertheless, every third (31%) still thinks they are targeted at personal well-being. (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)

December 14, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Britain Tops The Property Gloom Rankings

More than two thirds (68 per cent) of people in the UK think that this is a bad time to buy real estate according to the latest findings by Ipsos MORI. Conversely, Indians are the most positive about their property market, with 64 per cent saying that this is a good time to purchase property. (Ipsos Mori)

January 19, 2011

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Strongly Desire That Political Leaders Work Together

As the 112th Congress gets fully underway in Washington this week, Americans issue a clear appeal for bipartisanship from both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Eighty percent say President Obama should work to pass legislation that Democrats and Republicans can agree on, even if it's not what most Democrats want, while 83% say it is "extremely" or "very" important that Republican leaders work with Obama and Democratic leaders to pass agreeable new legislation. (Gallup USA)

January 19, 2011

Americans See Room for Improvement in Obama's Leadership

Americans see room for improvement in several aspects of President Barack Obama's leadership at the halfway mark of his term. Their broadest criticism is directed at the president's record of bringing about changes the country needs -- a central theme of his 2008 election campaign -- with 70% saying he needs to do a better job of this. (Gallup USA)

January 19, 2011

U.S. Job Pessimism Down Slightly Year-Over-Year

Eighty-four percent of Americans in January say now is a "bad time" to find a quality job, down slightly from 90% in January 2010, but continuing a trend of high negativity that has persisted for more than two years. (Gallup USA)

January 21, 2011

Majority Wants Healthcare Reform Repealed

Slightly more than 50% of likely voters favor repealing the healthcare reform bill passed in 2010, but by nearly identical percentages, they say the upcoming Republican plan to repeal is a political gimmick to satisfy opponents of the bill, and do not believe it will succeed, a new Zogby Interactive Survey finds. (Zogby Interactive)

January 18, 2011

Obama Averages 46.7% Job Approval in Second Year

Barack Obama averaged 46.7% job approval in his second full year in office, spanning Jan. 20, 2010-Jan. 19, 2011. That places Obama's approval on the low end compared with other presidents elected to office since World War II -- similar to the averages of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, but better than Ronald Reagan's historical low second-year average. (Gallup USA)

January 21, 2011

Americans Worry More About Lack of Money Than Job Loss

When asked to name the most important financial problem they face, Americans are most likely to say a lack of money or low wages (16%), followed closely by healthcare costs (14%) and too much debt (11%). Other concerns include the cost of owning/renting a home, the high cost of living, and unemployment -- although fewer than 1 in 10 name these as a top problem. (Gallup USA)

January 20, 2011

Economy, Jobs Top Public's Policy Agenda

The public's policy agenda is again dominated by the economy and jobs with other major issues viewed as less important. Fully 87% say that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress and 84% rate improving the job situation as a top priority, by far the highest percentages among 22 issues tested. (Pew Research Center)

January 20, 2011

No Shift Toward Gun Control After Tucson Shootings

In the wake of the Tucson shootings, there is no significant change in public views on the issue of gun control and gun rights. Currently, 49% of Americans say it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns, while 46% say it is more important to control gun ownership. In September 2010, 50% prioritized gun control, 46% gun rights. (Pew Research Center)

January 19, 2011

Media Analysis: How the Press Covered the Tragedy in Tucson

The aftermath of the Jan. 8 shooting spree in Tucson dominated the American news media last week in a way events rarely do: the tragedy registered as the third-biggest story in a single week since PEJ began tracking coverage in January 2007. From Jan. 10-16, the rampage that killed six and badly wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords accounted for 57% of the news coverage studied by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. (Pew Research Center)

January 19, 2011

Bipartisan Praise for Obama Memorial Speech

The aftermath of the deadly shooting rampage in Tucson, Ariz., dominated the public's news interest last week as President Obama's speech at a memorial service won praise -- across party lines -- among those who had read or heard about the event. (Pew Research Center)

January 18, 2011

Boehner Favorability Jumps; Obama Back Above 50%

Americans' opinions of House Speaker John Boehner have improved considerably since last fall, rising a total of 15 percentage points, including eight points since immediately after the midterm elections. Though one in three Americans are still unfamiliar with Boehner, his ratings are now much more positive than negative, a shift from prior to the election, when they were about equally positive and negative. (Gallup USA)

January 18, 2011

No Mandate for Clear U.S. Policy Leader Between Obama, GOP

Neither President Obama nor the Republicans in Congress are the clear leaders when Americans are asked whom they want to have more influence over the direction the nation takes in the next year. Forty-five percent want Obama to have more influence, while 42% prefer the Republicans. This marks a slight change from surveys conducted in August and early November of last year, when Americans expressed a slight preference for the Republicans. (Gallup USA)

January 17, 2011

Americans More Optimistic Than Not About Obama, Economy

All three major political groups in the United States tend to be optimistic rather than pessimistic when asked how President Barack Obama's job performance over the next two years will compare to the first two years, with Democrats overwhelmingly positive. (Gallup USA)

January 20, 2011

Clear Support for Civil Unions - But Not Gay Marriage

59% of Americans support legal civil unions for same-sex couples, giving those partners legal rights when it comes to things like health insurance, inheritance and pensions, according to the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll. 32% oppose civil unions for same-sex

couples, but that figure includes majorities of Republicans, conservatives and those 65 and older. (Yougov)

January 13, 2011

After Two Years: The President and the Public

Although in the past year public approval of President Obama's performance in office dropped to its all-time low, the President starts his third year just about where he was a year ago, with a nation pretty much evenly divided on his performance in office: 45% of Americans approve of how he is handling his job as President, while 48% disapprove. (Yougov)

January 20, 2011

Canadians cautiously optimistic about economy heading into 2011

Canadians are expressing glimmers of optimism on the economy as we head into the New Year. TNS Canada's Monthly Consumer Confidence Index showed a slight but significant gain of 2.3 points in January, beginning the year at 98.4. (TNS Canada)

January 20, 2011

AUSTRALASIA

Over 70% of customers satisfied with Mobile Phone Service Provider

Overall customer satisfaction with mobile service providers continues its upward trend in Australia and has increased to 71% in the six months to October 2010. (Roy Morgan)

January 17, 2011

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Worldwide, 40% Are Employed Full Time for an Employer

Forty percent of the global workforce was employed full time for an employer in 2009 and 2010, according to Gallup surveys from 129 countries and areas. Nineteen percent were underemployed, including 7% who were unemployed. (Gallup USA)

January 19, 2011

Civic Engagement Highest in Developed Countries

Gallup studies worldwide show people with high civic engagement are positive about the communities where they live and actively give back to them. Data from 130 countries show that, in general, adults in developed countries are much more likely to be civically engaged than those in the developing world. (Gallup USA)

January 18, 2011

Continued Public Support for Going Beyond GDP: Global Poll

A new global poll across 12 countries reveals that more than two-thirds of people polled think that economic statistics like GDP are an inadequate way of measuring national progress. (Globescan)

January 21, 2011

CYBERWORLD

Social Side of the Internet

The internet is now deeply embedded in group and organizational life in America. A new national survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project has found that 75% of all American adults are active in some kind of voluntary group or organization, and internet users are more likely than others to be active: 80% of internet users participate in groups, compared with 56% of non-internet users. (Pew Research Center)

January 18, 2011

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

155-1 More Than Half (52%) Of All Pakistanis Believe That Media Plays A Constructive Social Role¹

GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN

Islamabad, January 20, 2011

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan , more than half (52%) of all Pakistanis consider media to be a source of awareness as opposed to 29% who disagree.

In a survey, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked the following question: “Some people believe that media creates constructive awareness among public through dramas, talk shows and other programs while others are of the opinion that media does not influence traditions, lifestyles and beliefs. What is your point of view?” Fifty two percent (52%) believed that media has a beneficial effect on the culture. On the contrary 29% said that it left no impact on our lives. A considerable 19% were unsure and gave no response.

A detailed analysis of the survey showed relatively more urbanites (59%) were of the opinion that media creates a positive impact on the society as compared to their rural counterparts (49%).

“Some people believe that media creates constructive awareness among public through dramas, talk shows and other programs while others are of the opinion that media does not influence traditions, lifestyles and beliefs. What is your point of view?”



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan , the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

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 2754 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during January 2011. Error margin is estimated to be approximately + 2-3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

¹ <http://gallup.com.pk/Polls/20-01-11.pdf>

155-2 **Pakistanis Believe Country Can Survive Without IMF Loans**²

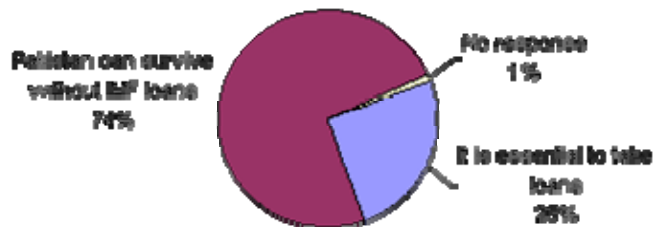
*74% Believe That Pakistan Can Survive Without Taking Loan From IMF:
GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN*

Islamabad, January 21, 2011

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, almost three fourth of all Pakistanis (74%) believe that Pakistan can survive without taking loan from IMF as opposed to 25%, who say taking loan is essential for Pakistan's survival.

In a survey, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked the following question: "Some people believe that Pakistan is in a very bad economic condition and cannot survive without taking loan from IMF while others believe it is not so. What is your opinion?" Seventy four percent (74%) were of the opinion that Pakistan does not need to borrow from IMF while 25% believed that Pakistan cannot survive without borrowing. 1% gave no response.

"Some people believe that Pakistan is in a very bad economic condition and cannot survive without taking loan from IMF while others believe it is not so. What is your opinion?"



Source: Gallup and Gilani Surveys

the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

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 2754 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during January 2011. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

EAST EUROPE

155-3 **Soaring Food Prices Hitting Macedonians Hard**³

January 19th 2011

Reports from Macedonia (Balkan Insight) say that prices of basic consumer products (e.g. bread, milk, vegetables and fruit) are continuously climbing. This is no surprise; the UN FAO Price Index is at its highest since it began back in 1990. However, with prices of sugar, oils & fats at

² <http://gallup.com.pk/Polls/21-01-11.pdf>

³ <http://www.balkan-monitor.eu/>

record levels, the impact in Macedonia could be worse than that in many other countries. The latest Gallup Balkan Monitor (GBM) data showed that a quarter (24%) of Macedonians had experienced times in the last 12 months when they could not afford to buy food for themselves and family. Across the Balkans, only Albania and Kosovo (27% and 29%, respectively) had worse figures. Furthermore, just under three-quarters (72%) of Macedonians said they could only manage on their household's income with "difficulty" or with "great difficulty". Macedonia, together with Serbia, has continuously had more people in this position since the GBM started polling in 2006.

This constant struggle to survive is impacting the way Macedonians feel about their lives in general. On a scale of 0 to 10, Macedonians gave their lives a score of 4.2 – the lowest in the region. The 2010 score was 0.3 points down from that in 2006. Only the Bosnian Federation has seen a steeper drop in life satisfaction in this time: from 5.1 in 2006 to 4.7 in 2010 (still 0.5 points higher than Macedonia).

The government has said it will consider selling its reserves of food and other goods if food prices continue to climb and increase social unrest. This might work for a period of time; the government does appear to inspire confidence. In the recent GBM poll, 39% felt that the Macedonian government was doing a "good" or "excellent" job. Only Montenegro with 47% had better figures in the region.

155-4 **Riots On Manege Square: Unrest Or Protest Action?**⁴
20.01.2011

Two thirds of Russians would not support the participants of the riots on Manege square. No way would the majority of respondents take part in such actions.

MOSCOW, December 24, 2010. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data about the attitudes of Russians towards riots on Manege Square, and on how many Russians would support such actions in their place of residence.

The riots that took place on Manege Square on December 11th drew a wide response (85%): 43% are well informed about that, other 42% heard about that in general. Twelve percent do not know anything about the riots.

Mostly informed respondents are supporters of CPRF party (56%), respondents of the middle and pre-retirement age (45-46%), highly educated Russians (50%), active Internet users (48%) and metropolitan residents (60%). Those who are not informed about the riots are LDPR adherents (15%), supporters of United Russia and absentees (13% for each), the youth (20%), low-educated Russians (16%), residents of big cities and rural area (16-17%).

Russians who tracked the news about the Manege Square riots do not have the common assessment of what happened: 31% think it was hooliganism; 29% call it protest action. According to 7%, it was a protest action that ended up badly. Every tenth say the riots were a

⁴ <http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111221.html>

provocation (11%) and cross-national conflict (9%). Three percent say it was another trick by young Russians. Other 3% are convinced that the situation has uncovered long-term faults of authorities in the youth and cross national policies.

Two-thirds of those who were aware of what happened on Manege Square said they did not support the participants of the action (65%). Those who negatively assessed the actions of the young people were mainly supporters of Fair Russia and United Russia parties (68% for each), elderly respondents (74%), and residents of middle cities (71%) and rural area residents (69%). Those who oppose their stance are 18% including LDPR party adherents (41%), metropolitan residents (27%), respondents aged under 34 (22-24%).

The overwhelming majority of those who kept track of the developments say they would not take part in such actions even if it happens in their place of residence (79%). They are basically supporters of non-parliament parties (90%) and United Russia (83%), elderly respondents (87%) and respondents with education above secondary level (80-81%), residents of North-Western part of Russia (87%).

At the same time, every tenth (11%) do not exclude personal participation in such actions. They are mainly LDPR supporters (32%), respondents aged under 34 (15-16%), low-educated Russians (13-14%), Far-Easterners (15%), residents of the Urals and Central Russia (14% for each), Northern Caucasus (13%) and Southern Russia (12%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 18-19 December, 2010. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Do you personally know or have you heard/heard for the first time about the riots that took place on December 11th? (open-ended question, one answer)			
	Total respondents	Moscow and St.Petersburg	More than 500
I know	43	60	33
I heard in general, but not in details	42	28	48
I hear for the first time	12	8	17
Hard to tell	2	4	2

Some part of Russians says it was a protest action. Others call it hooliganism. There are other versions. In your opinion, what exactly happened on Manege Square, December 11th? (open-ended question, write down everything told by respondent, % of those who know about what happened)	
Mess, banditry, riots, outrage, hooliganism	31
Action of protests against illegality, murders, inaction of authorities	22

Planned action, provocation	11
Cross-national conflict, ethnic clashes	9
Action of protest turned unto unrest and hooliganism	7
Tricks of young Russians and fans	3
Situation that uncovered the faults of authorities in the youth policy and cross-national issues	3
Other	1
Hard to tell	16

Riots happened on Manege Square were evaluated differently by Russians. Some people support such actions, some oppose. How do you evaluate these actions? (close-ended question, one answer, % of those who knows about what happened)

	Total respondents	Moscow and St.Petersburg	and more than 500 thousand
Rather support	18	27	20
Rather oppose	65	56	63
Hard to tell	17	18	17

If such actions happened in your place of residence (city, rural area settlement), would you personally take part in them? (close-ended question, one answer, % of those who know about what happened)

	Total respondents	Aged 18-24	Aged 25-34	Aged 35-44
Rather take part	11	15	16	10
Rather not take part	79	72	73	81
Hard to tell	10	13	11	10

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.

155-5 **Putin-Medvedev Tandem: Three Years Later**⁵

Two-thirds of the Russian population believe the joint management of Putin and Medvedev is effective and long-term.

MOSCOW, December 14, 2010. In mid-December 2007, three years ago, four parties such as United Russia, Fair Russia, Agrarian party and Civil Force nominated Dmitry Medvedev as a

⁵ <http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111165.html>

presidential candidate. We are presenting the data concerning how Russians assess the ruling politicians, whether they regard Putin-Medvedev joint management as effective, and for how long the alliance of the two politicians will last.

The attitudes of Russians towards those who rule the country have considerably changed compared to that of 1994 and 2000. Russians thought that the ruling politicians were concerned about their financial well-being and career (53% in 1994, 44% in 2000). Currently, the politicians are perceived as a good team leading the country in the right direction (42 versus 5% in 1994). Nevertheless, every third (31%) still thinks they are targeted at personal well-being. There are also those who think that modern politicians are honest but weak and low competent. Compared to 1994, the number of such respondents has declined (from 20 to 11% and from 22 to 16% respectively).

Almost two-thirds of respondents believe that the joint management of Putin and Medvedev is effective (60%). They are basically supporters of United Russia party (76%), young Russians (67%), Internet users (63-65%) and Russian with high level of income (72%). At the same time, every fifth (19%) oppose this stance. They are mainly CPRF (43%) and LDPR (40%) party adherents, middle-aged and pre-retirement Russians (25-22%), those with low level of income (29%) and those who do not use Internet at all (20%), or, vice a versa, use Internet every day (18%). The share of positive and negative assessments about the joint work of the two politicians has slightly decreased over the recent year (from 65 to 60 and from 22 to 19% respectively); the share of those who were hard to answer has increased (from 13 to 21%).

Those who regarded Putin-Medvedev leadership as effective a year ago thought it was due to their constructive teamwork (17%). For the time being, respondents mark actual results of the joint work and growth in living standards of the population (12%). Russians also mention stable situation and order in the country and joint teamwork (10% for each). However, the first argument is more popular than it was a year ago (from 4 to 10%), whereas the second one is less actual (from 17 to 10%). The evidence of the effective work is as follows: priority attention to social policy (8%), successful anti-crisis program (7%), right course of the development of the country (6 versus 9% a year ago), improve of the international status of Russia (5 versus 3% a year ago) and other.

Respondents who assess the performance of tandem as being ineffective mention the lack of development and positive changes in the country (18% of the total number of those who call the tandem work ineffective). Most of respondents complained about the fall in living standards a year ago (18%). Nevertheless, many Russians still think so (13%). Much rarer the opponents of Medvedev and Putin mention corrupted authorities (from 6 to 11%), lack of attention to ordinary people (from 4 to 12%) and lack of control over decision implementation (from 4 to 9%). Every tenth is convinced that the main evidence of the tandem's ineffective work is increase of prices and inflation (11%). Eight percent recall economic crisis; other 8% believe that Putin alone would rule the country more effectively.

Asked about the perspectives of Putin-Medvedev tandem, two-thirds of Russians answered it is long-term and is hardly to come apart in the near future (67% versus 63% a year ago). Those who think so are supporters of United Russia (77%), Russians with low level of education

(81%), residents of middle cities and rural area (71% for each), those who rarely use Internet or do not use it at all (69% for each). Fifteen percent of Russians thinks the tandem is not strong inside (11% a year ago). Those who think so are adherents of non-parliament parties (29%), active Internet users (17%) and metropolitan residents (28%). In a few years after the tandem was formed respondents have become more confident forecasting its future: the share of those who were undecided has decreased (from 22 to 14%), and the share of those who gave informative answers has increased instead.

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 21-22 August and 25-26 September, 2010. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

How would you assess the ruling politicians? (open-ended question, one answer, % of respondents with informative answers)			
	1994	2000	2010
It is a good team leading the country in the right direction	5	27	42
They are people who are concerned about their own financial well-being and career	53	44	31
They are honest but low competent; they do not know how to pull the country out of the economic crisis	22	16	16
They are honest but weak; they fail to tackle their power and provide order and consistent policies in the country	20	14	11

It has been two years since Dmitry Medvedev became the president of the RF, and Vladimir Putin - Russian Prime Minister. In your opinion, how effective is their management? (close-ended question, one answer)		
	2010	2009
Very effective	10	15
Rather effective	50	49
Rather ineffective	14	18
Completely ineffective	5	5
Hard to tell	21	13
If you think Putin-Medvedev joint management is effective, could you tell us why? (open-ended question, not more than three answers, % of those who think the joint management is effective)		
	2009	2010
We can see the real results of their work, the growth in living standards	13	12

Stability and order in the country	4	10
They work as a team	17	10
They put attention to social policy	8	8
They take effective anti-crisis measures; the crisis is hardly noticeable	8	7
They share the common vision of the future of the country	9	6
They have improved the international status of Russia; they conduct the right foreign policy	3	5
They ideally complement each other	4	5
Continuity of policy, stable political course	4	4
Personal traits: young, energetic, good education	3	4
It is easier to rule the country in tandem	3	3
All the problems are tackled immediately	3	2
Fight against corruption	0	1
Putin being experienced and strong politician suggest Medvedev what should be done	4	1
Other	1	1
Hard to tell	28	30

If you think Putin-Medvedev joint management is ineffective, could you tell us why? (open-ended question, not more than three answers, % of those who think the joint management is ineffective)		
	2009	2010
No changes , no development; nothing is good	16	18
Decrease in the living standards	18	13
They do not help people; they have forgotten about them	4	12
Increase in prices, inflation	10	11
They do not control the implementation of their decisions by the state officials	4	9
They let the crisis happen and they do not combat the crisis effectively	12	8
Together they work less effectively then Putin alone	9	8
Incompetent authorities, wrong political course	5	5
They delay paying salaries and they decrease salaries	3	2
They do not think about the Far East , not putting enough attention to regions	1	0

They pay too much attention to foreign policy and do not conduct it in a proper way	1	-
Other	5	0
Hard to tell	13	15

In your opinion, how long will the Putin-Medvedev tandem exist?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	2009	2010
The alliance is not firm enough; the political problems will soon destroy it	11	15
It is a long-term alliance; I do not see any reasons that could destroy the alliance in the foreseeable future	63	67
Other	4	4
Hard to tell	22	14

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

NORTH AMERICA

155-6 **Americans Strongly Desire That Political Leaders Work Together**⁶

More than 8 in 10 want Obama, GOP leaders to work with other side to pass legislation

January 19, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- As the 112th Congress gets fully underway in Washington this week, Americans issue a clear appeal for bipartisanship from both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Eighty percent say President Obama should work to pass legislation that Democrats and Republicans can agree on, even if it's not what most Democrats want, while 83% say it is "extremely" or "very" important that Republican leaders work with Obama and Democratic leaders to pass agreeable new legislation.

⁶ http://www.gallup.com/poll/145679/Americans-Strongly-Desire-Political-Leaders-Work-Together.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

Over the next two years, do you think President Obama should -- [ROTATED: work to pass legislation most Democrats want whether Republicans agree with it or not (or) work to pass legislation Democrats and Republicans can agree on, even if it's not what most Democrats want]?

	% Legislation most Democrats want	% Legislation Democrats and Republicans agree on	% No opinion
2011 Jan 14-16	13	80	8
Democrats	26	70	5
Independents	11	79	10
Republicans	2	93	5

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Now that the Republicans are in control of the House of Representatives, how important do you think each of the following goals should be for the Republican leadership -- extremely important, very important, moderately important, or not that important? How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

A. Working with President Obama and the Democratic leadership in the Senate to pass new legislation that both parties can agree on

	% Extremely important	% Very important	% Moderately important	% Not that important	% No opinion
2011 Jan 14-16	42	41	13	4	1
Democrats	49	41	7	2	1
Independents	38	43	14	3	1
Republicans	42	35	16	7	*

* Less than 0.5%

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The vote Wednesday on H.R. 2, the bill that would repeal the entire healthcare legislation passed last March, is a major effort by the new Republican House leadership to confront President Obama's policies of the last two years. Most observers agree that H.R. 2 has little chance of becoming law, which could mean that Republican leaders at this point are interested in sending messages and responding to their conservative base, rather than in proposing realistic legislation. Americans' sentiments about bipartisanship in the most recent poll reinforce [previous Gallup research](#) showing that the public tilts toward having leaders find ways to compromise in order to get things done, rather than sticking to principles at the risk of doing nothing.

Even partisans appear to want their leaders to work with the other side to pass legislation. Seven out of 10 Democrats say Obama should work to pass legislation with Republicans, even if it is

not the legislation that most Democrats want. And more than three-quarters of Republicans say it is extremely or very important that Republican leaders work with Obama and Democratic leaders to pass legislation both parties can agree on.

That's not to say Americans are totally disinterested in having their parties hold firmly to their beliefs and positions. A little more than half of Republicans say it is extremely or very important that Republican leaders work to prevent President Obama and the Democratic leadership in the Senate from "passing legislation that Republicans disagree with." That percentage is, however, well below the 77% of Republicans who say it is important that Republicans work with Obama and the Democrats. A sizable minority of Democrats and independents also say it is important for Republicans to prevent passage of legislation that Republicans disagree with, suggesting that this question is to some extent measuring agreement with the fundamental nature of a bipartisan government.

Now that the Republicans are in control of the House of Representatives, how important do you think each of the following goals should be for the Republican leadership -- extremely important, very important, moderately important, or not that important? How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

B. Preventing President Obama and the Democratic leadership in the Senate from passing legislation that Republicans disagree with

	% Extremely important	% Very important	% Moderately important	% Not that important	% No opinion
2011 Jan 14-16	15	24	30	28	3
Democrats	12	17	28	41	2
Independents	12	23	31	30	3
Republicans	24	31	31	12	2

GALLUP®

Implications

The new 112th Congress begins its work with a controversial and highly partisan vote aimed at repealing what President Obama might consider the most significant accomplishment of his first two years in office -- the landmark healthcare legislation passed last March. Many view the repeal effort as a symbolic payback to conservatives and Tea Party supporters, whose votes helped the Republicans take control of the House last November. Whether both parties' leaders continue such efforts to play to their bases in the months ahead remains to be seen. As far as Americans are concerned, however, political leaders would do well to focus more on compromise and agreement on mutually acceptable new legislation, rather than confrontation.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Jan. 14-16, 2011, with a random sample of 1,032 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 2010 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.

155-7 **Americans See Room for Improvement in Obama's Leadership**⁷

Fewer than 3 in 10 are satisfied with the president for bringing about needed change

January 19, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans see room for improvement in several aspects of President Barack Obama's leadership at the halfway mark of his term. Their broadest criticism is directed at the president's record of bringing about changes the country needs -- a central theme of his 2008 election campaign -- with 70% saying he needs to do a better job of this.

7

http://www.gallup.com/poll/145670/Americans-Room-Improvement-Obama-Leadership.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

Satisfaction With President Barack Obama's Leadership

Are you satisfied with the way Barack Obama is doing each of the following as president, or do you think he needs to do a better job?

	Satisfied	Needs to do better
	%	%
Displaying strong moral character	61	36
Being a strong and decisive leader	44	55
Understanding the problems Americans face in their daily lives	40	59
Putting the country's interests ahead of his own political interests	38	59
Bringing about changes this country needs	28	70

USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 14-16, 2011

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Majorities of Americans also say Obama could do a better job of putting the country's interests ahead of his own political interests, understanding the problems Americans face in their daily lives, and being a strong and decisive leader. A large majority, however, are satisfied with his display of strong moral character.

Democrats are generally pleased with Obama's performance in all five areas tested in the Jan. 14-16 USA Today/Gallup poll, although the percentage satisfied ranges from 53% for bringing about needed change to 84% for having strong moral character. By contrast, fewer than half of Republicans are satisfied with Obama on any of the dimensions.

The opinions of independents mirror those of the public at large. Most are satisfied with Obama's moral character, while majorities believe he can improve in the four other areas.

Satisfaction With President Barack Obama's Leadership -- by Party ID

% Satisfied with how Obama is doing in each area

	National adults	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
	%	%	%	%
Displaying strong moral character	61	84	60	43
Being a strong and decisive leader	44	68	40	25
Understanding Americans' problems	40	68	38	16
Putting country's interests ahead of politics	38	66	34	18
Bringing about needed changes	28	53	24	9

USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 14-16, 2011

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The same poll finds 47% of Americans approving of the job Obama is doing as president and 49% disapproving. Thus, many Americans who think Obama's leadership in several areas could be better -- particularly with respect to bringing about change -- nevertheless approve of his overall job performance. Similarly, many who are satisfied with his display of strong moral character simultaneously disapprove of his job performance.

Bottom Line

In his remarks on Jan. 12 at an Arizona memorial service for victims of the recent shootings in Tucson, President Obama expressed hope that the political debates prompted by the tragedy not be fought "on the usual plane of politics and point-scoring and pettiness," and called for greater civility in public discourse, more generally.

The speech may have reinforced Americans' perceptions of Obama as a man of strong moral character. However, 59% still think he could do a better job of putting the country's interests ahead of politics. They also believe he could do more to bring about the changes the country needs and to show greater understanding of the problems average Americans face -- perhaps by showing stronger, more decisive leadership. These are the directives from Americans to their president as he prepares his State of the Union address and begins to assemble his campaign team for re-election in 2012.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Jan. 14-16, 2011, with a random sample of 1,032 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 2010 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.

155-8 **U.S. Job Pessimism Down Slightly Year-Over-Year**⁸

⁸http://www.gallup.com/poll/145745/Job-Pessimism-Down-Slightly-Year-Year.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA

January 21, 2011

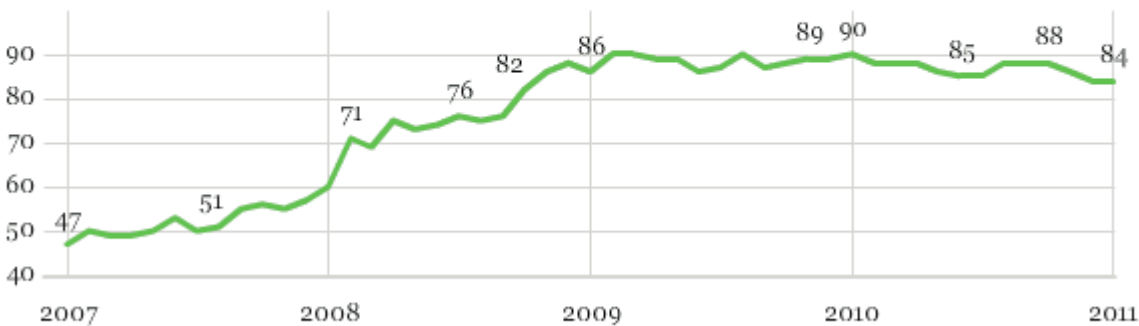
Despite improvement, 84% of Americans think now is a "bad time" to find a quality job

PRINCETON, NJ -- Eighty-four percent of Americans in January say now is a "bad time" to find a quality job, down slightly from 90% in January 2010, but continuing a trend of high negativity that has persisted for more than two years.

Finding a Quality Job Nationwide, January 2007-January 2011

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

■ % "Bad time"



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While still very high, the percentage of Americans saying now is a "bad time" to find a quality job ties the December 2010 reading as the most positive over the last year -- and is the best since October 2008.

Bottom Line

Gallup this week released its [new worldwide measures of employment](#), focusing specifically on the percentage who are employed full time for an employer, which is 40% worldwide. Gallup found that this measure is clearly related to GDP, highlighting the importance of creating quality jobs in driving economic growth around the world.

Of course, while having a job with an employer for pay is a reasonable objective in many parts of the world, that is not the case in the U.S. Most Americans want a job that uses their talents, education, skills, and experience -- a "quality" job.

In order for the United States to not only remain competitive in the global economy, but alleviate unemployment and maintain a vibrant middle class at home, it needs to create millions of "quality" jobs that currently do not exist. While [Gallup's Job Creation Index](#) as well as its [Underemployment measure](#) suggest that the jobs situation in the U.S. has been improving somewhat, at least compared with a year ago, there is still a long way to go.

Three in 10 Americans [worry that they may lose their job, 18.6% are underemployed](#), and, as just reviewed, 84% say now is a bad time to find a quality job. So it's not surprising that 29% of Americans think [unemployment/jobs are the most important problem](#) facing the nation today.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,018 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 7-9, 2011. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of error is ± 4 percentage points.

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

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 2010 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.

155-9 Majority Wants Healthcare Reform Repealed⁹

January 18, 2011

Yet most say Repeal Attempt A Political Gimmick

UTICA, New York - Slightly more than 50% of likely voters favor repealing the healthcare reform bill passed in 2010, but by nearly identical percentages, they say the upcoming Republican plan to repeal is a political gimmick to satisfy opponents of the bill, and do not believe it will succeed, a new Zogby Interactive Survey finds.

The poll, conducted from January 7 - 10, also finds that 59% of voters favor new House of Representatives' rules implemented by the Republican majority that generally allow more amendments and debate, and that a plurality (47%) agree with the Republican majority decision not to allow amendments to the bill to repeal healthcare reform.

Do you favor or oppose repealing the healthcare reform bill passed last year by Congress?

Responses	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
-----------	------------	-----------	-------------	--------------

⁹ <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.cfm?ID=1941>

Favor	54%	15%	94%	54%
Oppose	43%	82%	4%	42%
Not sure	3%	4%	2%	4%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The only age group that does not favor repeal is First Globals™ born since 1979, who are evenly split at 43%.

Do you consider the Republicans' plans to vote on repeal of the healthcare reform bill to be a serious effort to improve our healthcare system; or would you say it is a political gimmick intended to satisfy opponents of the healthcare reform bill?

Responses	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Serious effort to improve system	38%	9%	69%	37%
Gimmick to satisfy bill's opponents	52%	87%	19%	50%
Neither	6%	3%	8%	8%
Not sure	3%	2%	4%	5%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Belief that this is a serious effort to improve the healthcare system increases with age, going from 36% among First Globals™ to 46% among those 65 and older.

Do you believe the healthcare reform law will be repealed?

Responses	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	26%	10%	45%	23%
No	54%	75%	34%	53%
Not sure	20%	15%	21%	24%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

First Globals™ are least likely to believe repeal will happen (18%), but the difference from all other older voters is less than 10 percentage points.

In establishing new rules for this session of the House of Representatives, the Republican majority passed rules to generally allow for more amendments on bills, and to allow more extensive debate. Do you favor or oppose these aspects of the new House rules?

Responses	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Favor	59%	36%	83%	58%
Oppose	28%	48%	11%	25%
Not sure	13%	16%	6%	17%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

When the House debates repeal of the healthcare reform bill next week, the Republican majority will not allow the introduction of amendments. Do you agree or disagree with this decision not to allow amendments to repeal of the healthcare reform bill?

Responses	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	47%	15%	81%	46%
Disagree	41%	69%	12%	41%
Not sure	12%	16%	8%	13%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Pollster John Zogby: "Republicans are committed to holding a vote to repeal healthcare reform, but the quicker they get this vote over with, the better for them. Independent voters may not like the law and want it repealed, but they also don't believe that will happen. They want action on the economy and on government spending and taxes, and want the new Congress to focus on that."

The interactive poll consisting of 2,067 likely voters was conducted from January 7-10 2011, and has a margin of error of +/-2.2%. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population.

155-10 **Obama Averages 46.7% Job Approval in Second Year**¹⁰

Down more than 10 percentage points from first-year average
January 21, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Barack Obama averaged 46.7% job approval in his second full year in office, spanning Jan. 20, 2010-Jan. 19, 2011. That places Obama's approval on the low end compared with other presidents elected to office since World War II -- similar to the averages of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, but better than Ronald Reagan's historical low second-year average.

Second-Year Job Approval Averages of Elected Presidents, Gallup Polls

President	Dates of second year in office	Approval average (%)	No. of polls
Eisenhower	Jan 20, 1954-Jan 19, 1955	65.5	16
Kennedy	Jan 20, 1962-Jan 19, 1963	72.1	13
Nixon	Jan 20, 1970-Jan 19, 1971	56.2	17
Carter	Jan 20, 1978-Jan 19, 1979	45.3	26
Reagan	Jan 20, 1982-Jan 19, 1983	43.3	19
G.H.W. Bush	Jan 20, 1990-Jan 19, 1991	66.8	32
Clinton	Jan 20, 1994-Jan 19, 1995	45.9	28
G.W. Bush	Jan 20, 2002-Jan 19, 2003	71.3	46
Obama	Jan 20, 2010-Jan 19, 2011	46.7	347

GALLUP®

Obama's low second-year ratings are due in large part to the struggles of the U.S. economy. The other presidents with low second-year averages also took office during difficult economic times. With a Democratic congressional majority, Obama was able to achieve much legislatively, most notably the landmark, [though not altogether popular](#), healthcare legislation passed in March 2010. From his first to his second year in office, Obama's average approval rating fell 10.5 percentage points, one of the largest first- to second-year drops Gallup has measured. Only Carter and Reagan had larger drops among elected presidents.

¹⁰http://www.gallup.com/poll/145742/Obama-Averages-Job-Approval-Second-Year.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

Change in Job Approval Averages of Elected Presidents, First to Second Year in Office, Gallup Polls

President	Year 1 approval (%)	Year 2 approval (%)	Change (pct. pts.)
Eisenhower	68.8	65.5	-3.3
Kennedy	76.4	72.1	-4.3
Nixon	61.4	56.2	-5.2
Carter	61.9	45.3	-16.6
Reagan	57.1	43.3	-13.8
G.H.W. Bush	65.9	66.8	+1.1
Clinton	49.3	45.9	-3.4
G.W. Bush	67.9	71.3	+3.4
Obama	57.2	46.7	-10.5

GALLUP®

Among all post-World War II presidents, Harry Truman had the largest drop, 37.8 points, from his first to second year in office. His 79.3% first-year average in 1945 was boosted by the rally in public support after Franklin Roosevelt's death and the United States' defeat of the Germans and Japanese in World War II.

George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush are the only presidents whose average approval ratings did not decline from their first to second years in office; they benefited from rallies in public support due to international crises (Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in 2001).

Slight Improvement in Obama's Latest Quarterly Average

The end of Obama's second year in office also marks the end of his eighth quarter as president, which began Oct. 20, during which Obama averaged 46.0% job approval. That is also on the low end compared with other elected presidents, better than only Clinton's and Reagan's eighth quarter averages.

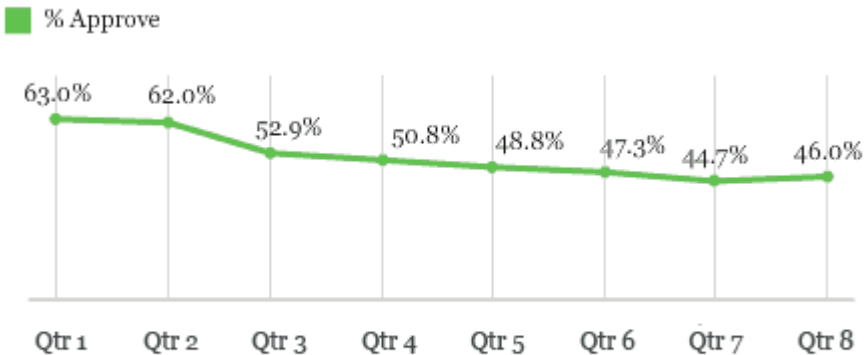
Eighth Quarter Job Approval Averages of Elected Presidents, Gallup Polls

President	Dates of eighth quarter in office	Approval average (%)	No. of polls
Eisenhower	Oct 20, 1954-Jan 19, 1955	65.3	3
Kennedy	Oct 20, 1962-Jan 19, 1963	74.7	3
Nixon	Oct 20, 1970-Jan 19, 1971	55.0	3
Carter	Oct 20, 1978-Jan 19, 1979	49.2	6
Reagan	Oct 20, 1982-Jan 19, 1983	41.0	4
G.H.W. Bush	Oct 20, 1990-Jan 19, 1991	62.7	11
Clinton	Oct 20, 1994-Jan 19, 1995	44.0	7
G.W. Bush	Oct 20, 2002-Jan 19, 2003	63.5	12
Obama	Oct 20, 2010-Jan 19, 2011	46.0	80

GALLUP®

However, the eighth quarter did bring some encouraging signs for Obama. Though his 46.0% quarterly average is still low in an absolute sense, this marks the first time his approval rating has improved from one quarter to the next, although by a modest 1.3 points.

Barack Obama's Quarterly Job Approval Averages



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Obama's more recent numbers have been even more positive, hovering around 50%. In fact, Obama ends his second year and eighth quarter in office with a 51% job approval rating in [the latest Gallup Daily three-day rolling average](#), his best since May.

The reason for the recent improvement is unclear, though it could be due to his response to the Tucson, Ariz., shootings, or the flurry of legislative activity at the end of last year's lame-duck session of Congress.

Implications

Although President Obama accomplished a lot during his second year in office, it was a challenging year for him politically. His approval ratings generally held below the majority level, and were arguably a major reason his party suffered heavy losses during the midterm elections in November. He begins his third year in office on a bit of an upswing, hoping for continued improvement in his public support.

There is no clear pattern of change in presidents' approval ratings between their second and third year; about as many improved (Truman, Eisenhower, Gerald Ford, Reagan, the elder Bush, and Clinton) as got worse (John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Carter, the younger Bush).

Improvement in Obama's third year could be a key sign of his re-election prospects. Of the three presidents whose ratings are most similar to his at the same point in their presidencies, the two whose ratings improved their third year (Reagan and Clinton) were re-elected the following year, and the one whose ratings continued to decline (Carter) was defeated.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking Oct. 20, 2010-Jan. 19, 2011, with a random sample of 82,710 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 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 2010 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.

155-11 **Americans Worry More About Lack of Money Than Job Loss**¹¹

Healthcare costs come in second on two measures of financial worry
January 20, 2011

¹¹http://www.gallup.com/poll/145730/Americans-Worry-Lack-Money-Job-Loss.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- When asked to name the most important financial problem they face, Americans are most likely to say a lack of money or low wages (16%), followed closely by healthcare costs (14%) and too much debt (11%). Other concerns include the cost of owning/renting a home, the high cost of living, and unemployment -- although fewer than 1 in 10 name these as a top problem.

What is the most important financial problem facing your family today?

	Jan 7-9, 2011
	%
Lack of money/Low wages	16
Healthcare costs	14
Too much debt/Not enough money to pay debts	11
Cost of owning/renting a home	8
High cost of living/Inflation	8
Unemployment/Loss of job	8
Energy costs/Oil and gas prices	6
College expenses	6
Retirement savings	6
Taxes	4
State of the economy	2
Social Security	2
Lack of savings	2
Stock market/Investments	1
Interest rates	1
Controlling spending	1
Transportation/Commuting costs	1
Other	2
None	14
No opinion	3

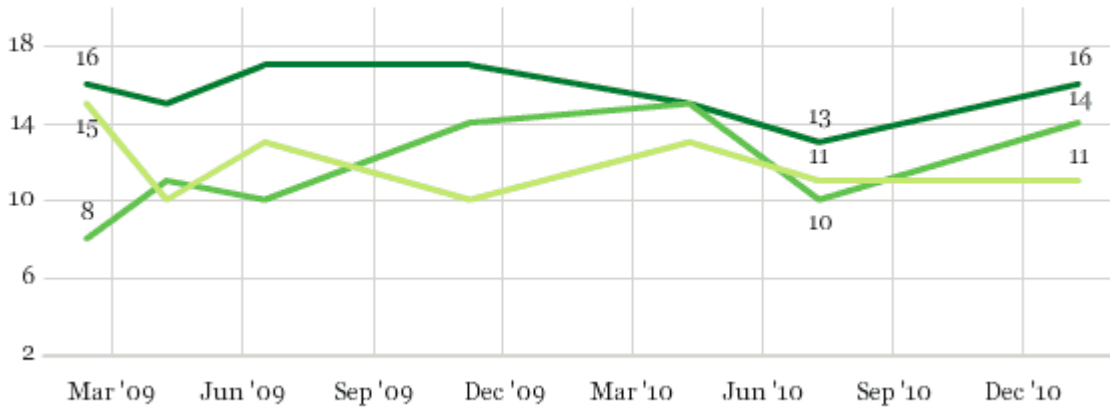
Note: Percentages add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

GALLUP®

The three most-mentioned financial concerns in the Jan. 7-9, 2011, poll have been at the top of Americans' list for the past two years, with little change in the percentages who name each one.

What is the most important financial problem facing your family today?

■ % Lack of money/Low wages ■ % Healthcare costs ■ % Too much debt



GALLUP®

In the same poll, a separate question asked Americans whether they are worried about four specific economic matters. Of these, worry about not being able to maintain their standard of living is the only one a majority of Americans mention. About 4 in 10 are worried about not being able to pay their medical bills over the next 12 months or that their house will lose value. Americans are least likely to worry that they or their spouse will lose their job within the next 12 months, with 30% saying they are worried and 68% not worried. This is notable given the high U.S. unemployment rate, and because [Americans name unemployment as the most important problem facing the country.](#)

Please tell me whether you are worried or not worried about each of the following happening. How about that -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

	% Worried	% Not worried
You will not be able to maintain your standard of living	53	46
You will not be able to pay medical or health costs over the next 12 months	43	56
Your house will lose value	42	55
You or your spouse will lose a job within the next 12 months	30	68

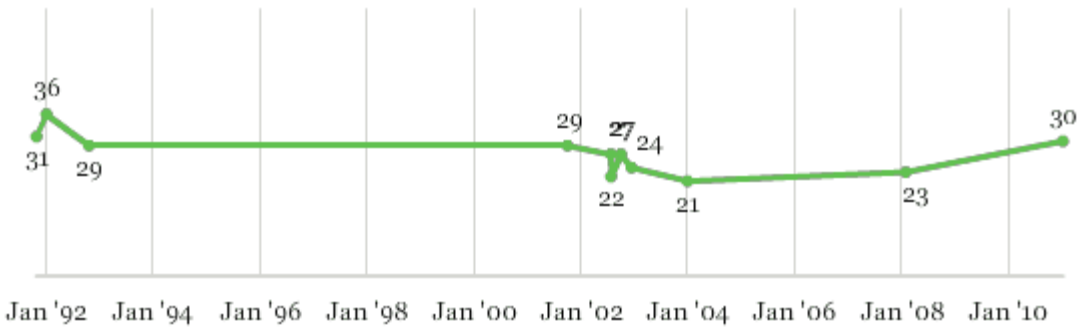
Jan. 7-9, 2011

GALLUP®

Worries about job loss, though low in an absolute sense, are up significantly from early 2008, when the question was last asked. That poll was conducted as the economic slowdown was becoming apparent, but the unemployment rate was much lower at that time than it is today. The current level of worry about losing one's job is on the high end of what Gallup has measured in this trend over the past two decades.

Worry About Losing a Job Within the Next 12 Months

■ % Worried



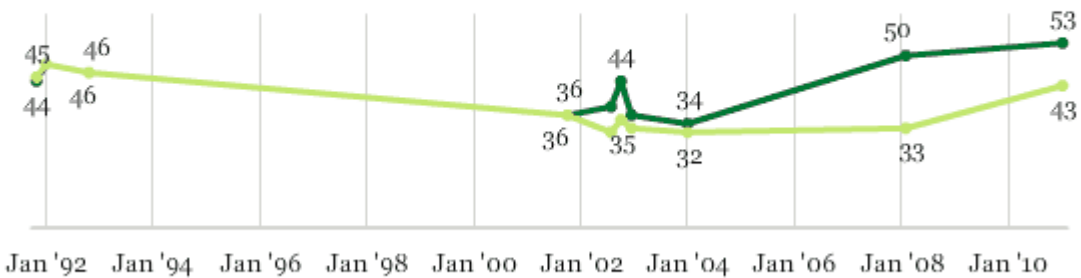
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Likewise, worry about paying healthcare costs and maintaining one's standard of living are up from recent years, with standard-of-living worries at a new high.

Worry About Maintaining Standard of Living and Ability to Pay Medical/Health Costs

■ % Worried about maintaining standard of living

■ % Worried about ability to pay medical costs over next 12 months



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Bottom Line

Although unemployment in the United States remains above 9% and [Americans name jobs as the top problem facing the nation](#), when it comes to their personal financial concerns, not having enough money appears to be top of mind. Clearly the two issues -- jobs and available cash flow -- are interrelated. But given that fewer than 1 in 10 Americans name unemployment or job loss as their top financial problem, and that 68% say they are not worried about job loss within the next 12 months, it appears most Americans are more worried about living well in their current situation rather than unemployment.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Jan. 7-9, 2011, with a random sample of 1,018 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 2010 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.

¹⁵⁵⁻¹² **Economy, Jobs Top Public's Policy Agenda**¹²

No Consensus about Future of Health Care Legislation

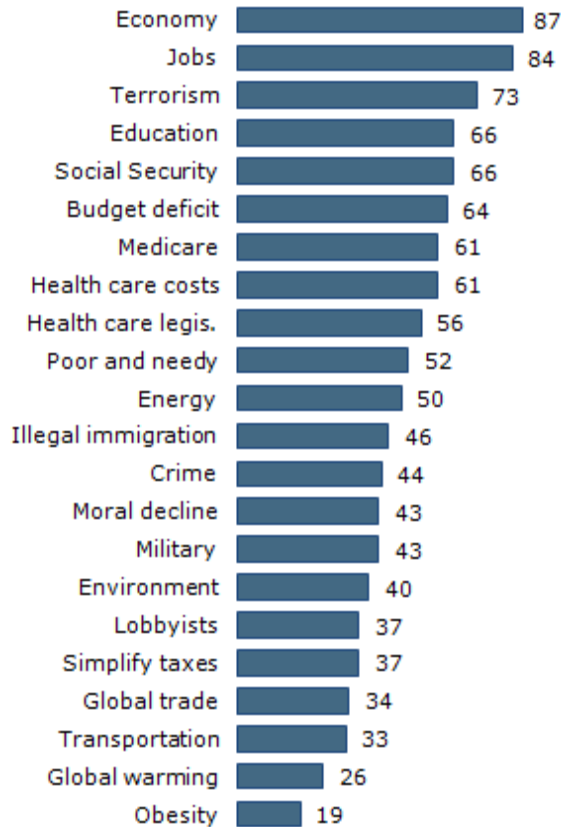
January 20, 2011

The public's policy agenda is again dominated by the economy and jobs with other major issues viewed as less important. Fully 87% say that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress and 84% rate improving the job situation as a top priority, by far the highest percentages among 22 issues tested.

¹² <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1865/poll-public-top-policy-priorities-2011-health-care-reform-repeal-expand>

Top Policy Priorities for 2011

% rating each a "top priority"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011.

And with the economy continuing to struggle, optimism about the country's long-term future has declined. Currently, 54% say they are optimistic about the long-term future of the United States, down from 61% last April. In 1999, 70% said they were optimistic about the country's future. The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 5-9 among 1,503 adults, finds that concern about the budget deficit has increased in recent years. Currently, 64% view reducing the budget deficit as a top priority, up slightly from 60% a year ago, and 53% in 2009. Yet reducing the deficit continues to lag far behind the economy and jobs among the public's priorities.

This also is true for policy goals related to health care, whether reducing health care costs (61% top priority) or revising last year's health care law (56%). The public continues to be divided over what it wants to see done with the health care law -- 37% favor its repeal, while nearly as many (35%) want the law expanded, and 20% would leave it as it is.

As President Obama prepares for his State of the Union speech next week, 34% say his address will be more important than previous years' speeches, 11% say it will be less important and 49% say it will be about as important as past State of the Union addresses. These opinions are little different from expectations about last year's speech; in January 2010, 39% said his State of the Union would be more important than past addresses.

More Long-Term Pessimism

Fewer Are Optimistic about America's Future

	May 1999	April 2010*	Jan 2011	99-11 change
<i>Future of U.S. over next 50 years ...</i>	%	%	%	
Optimistic	70	61	54	-16
Pessimistic	27	36	42	+15
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	100	
<i>Life for you and your family over next 50 years ...</i>				
Optimistic	81	64	63	-18
Pessimistic	15	31	33	+18
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 6-9, 2011 Omnibus. PEW6 & PEW7. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
* In April 2010, questions asked about future over next "40 years."

The survey finds that just 23% are satisfied with current national conditions, which is little changed from the last few months. And compared with the late 1990s, there is far less [optimism about the country's long-term future](#).

In May 1999, when the economy was thriving, 70% were optimistic about the future of the U.S. over the next 50 years, while only 27% were pessimistic. Pew Research's report on that survey -- "[Optimism Reigns, Technology Plays a Key Role](#)" -- reflected the public's upbeat mood.

Last year, in a [survey](#) conducted by the Pew Research Center in partnership with Smithsonian Magazine, fewer expressed a positive view of the long-term future; still, optimists far outnumbered pessimists (61% to 36%). In the current survey, 54% are optimistic about life over the next half-century while 42% are pessimistic.

People's predictions about their own lives in coming decades also turned more negative between 1999 and 2010. But there has been no change in the past year. Somewhat more are optimistic about the lives of themselves and their families over the next 50 years than they are over the future of the country (63% vs. 54%).

Policy Priorities -- Jobs Jump, Crime Tumbles

The annual [policy priorities list](#) has shifted over the years. For example, jobs have long been a public concern, but the percentage citing improving the job situation as a top priority jumped 21 points from January 2008 to January 2009 -- from 61% to 82%. Currently, 84% say that improving the job situation should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

And while the percentage saying that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority also has steadily increased, crime concerns have plummeted. A decade ago, 76% said that reducing crime should be a top priority; just 44% currently rate reducing crime as a top policy priority.

Partisans Agree: Boost Economy, Improve Job Situation

Top policy priorities for...

Republicans	Democrats	Independents
90% Economy	88% Jobs	88% Economy
87% Jobs	87% Economy	81% Jobs
83% Terrorism	78% Education	67% Education
69% Social Sec.	76% Health costs	67% Terrorism
68% Deficit	72% Terrorism	65% Social Sec.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26.

As in the past, there are wide partisan differences over the importance of a number of issues. But strengthening the economy and improving the jobs situation are leading goals for Republicans, Democrats and independents alike. Defending the country from future terrorist attacks also ranks very high among all three groups, though more Republicans (83%) see this as a top priority than do Democrats (72%) or independents (67%).

The survey finds that many of the issues that have consistently clustered near the bottom of the annual priorities list, such as dealing with global trade and dealing with global warming, remain there in 2011. Yet the lowest-ranking priority of the 22 issues included this year is dealing with obesity. Just 19% say that dealing with obesity should be a top priority for the president and Congress. While Democrats (26% top priority) and independents (20%) are more likely than Republicans (8%) to view this as a top priority, it ranks at the bottom of the list among all three groups.

Republicans Want to Scrap Health Bill, Democrats Want to Expand It

<i>View of health care legislation...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	41	15	69	38
Disapprove	48	78	18	51
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

What should Congress do with health care law?

Expand it	35	16	51	37
Leave as is	20	14	28	19
Repeal it	37	64	12	38
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q29-30. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

One of the biggest partisan gaps is over the goal of reducing health care costs -- 76% of Democrats rate this as a top priority compared with 48% of Republicans. By contrast, there is

very little partisan difference in opinions about the importance of revising the health care legislation passed last year -- though it is clear that [Republicans and Democrats have very different ideas about how to revise the legislation](#).

More than six-in-ten (64%) Republicans support repealing health care legislation while roughly half (51%) of Democrats support expanding it. Independents are divided -- 38% would repeal the legislation and 37% would expand it. Notably, the option of leaving the legislation as it is wins only modest support across the board.

Public Looks Homeward, But Global Problems Loom

By an overwhelming margin (78% to 11%), Americans think it is more important for President Obama to focus on domestic policy rather than foreign policy. These opinions are little changed over the past two years.

Little Progress Seen on Foreign Hot Spots

<i>How is U.S. doing on ...</i>	Making progress	About the same	Losing ground	DK
	%	%	%	%
Situation in Iraq	32	48	15	5=100
Situation in Afghanistan	23	45	24	7=100
Dealing w/ Iran	13	53	26	9=100
Drug violence on Mexican border	12	38	43	7=100
Dealing w/ North Korea	9	50	26	14=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q27. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The public's focus on domestic issues also is reflected in opinions about the most important national problem: In an open-ended format, 35% cite unemployment or the lack of jobs, while 27% cite the economy more generally; just 6% cite international or foreign issues. There also has been little change in views of leading national problems over the past year.

At the same time, most Americans do not think that the U.S. is making progress on such hot-button international issues as Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and in dealing with drug violence along the Mexican border.

Iraq is the only issue tested where more think the United States is making progress (32%) rather than losing ground (15%); a plurality (48%) says that things in Iraq are about the same as they have been. On Afghanistan, roughly the same percentage says the U.S. is losing ground (24%) as sees it making progress (23%), while 45% say things are about the same.

When it comes to drug violence along the Mexican border, many more people say that the U.S. is losing ground than making progress. Roughly four-in-ten (43%) say the U.S. is losing ground on

drug violence along the border compared with just 12% who say the United States is making progress.

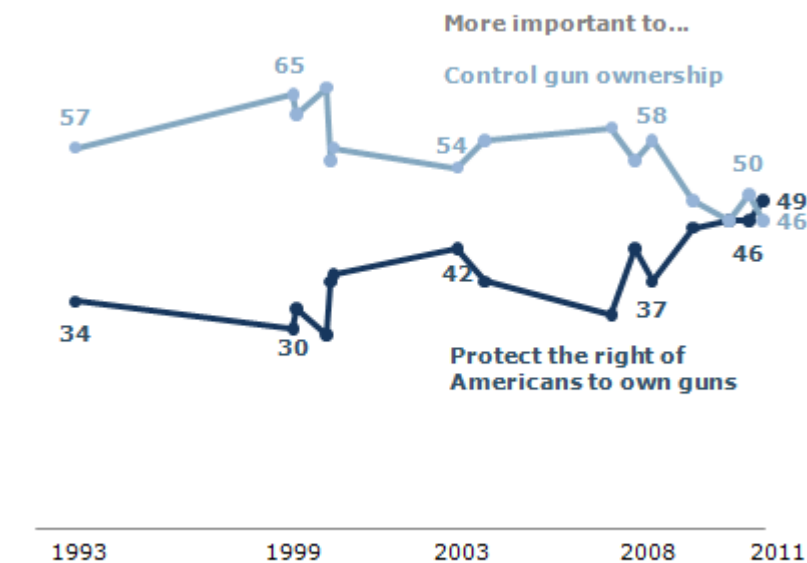
155-13 **No Shift Toward Gun Control After Tucson Shootings**¹³

Most Point to Troubled Individuals, Not Broader Societal Problems
January 19, 2011

In the wake of the Tucson shootings, there is no significant change in public views on the issue of gun control and gun rights.

Currently, 49% of Americans say it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns, while 46% say it is more important to control gun ownership. In September 2010, 50% prioritized gun control, 46% gun rights. In this regard, there is no sign that the longer trend toward an emphasis on gun owners' rights has abated.

Gun Views Remain Divided



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan 13-16, 2011.

The issue remains a deeply divisive one along party lines -- by a 72%-to-22% margin Republicans say protecting gun rights is more important, while by a 70%-to-26% margin Democrats prioritize gun control. Independents are more divided, with 52% favoring gun rights and 44% gun control. For a comprehensive look at opinions on the gun issue, see "[Views of Gun Control -- A Detailed Demographic Breakdown](#)," Jan. 13.

¹³ <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1864/post-tucson-shooting-gun-control-opinion-broader-problems-isolated-event>

Most See Tucson Shooting as an Isolated Event

	Apr 2007 VA Tech Shooting	Jan 2011 Tucson Shooting
<i>Shootings like this one...</i>	%	%
Are just the isolated acts of troubled individuals	47	58
Reflect broader problems in American society	46	31
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan 13-16, 2011.

Perhaps one reason that attitudes remained stable was how few saw the events in Tucson as a sign of broader social problems. Most (58%) Americans say things like this are just the isolated acts of troubled individuals. Only about half as many (31%) saw the shooting in Tucson as a reflection of broader problems in American society.

What Are the “Broader Problems” Reflected by the Tucson Shooting?

(Among the 31% Who Say the Shooting Reflects Broader Societal Problems)

%

27 Social Climate (Net)

- 8 Breakdown of society
- 6 Poor child rearing / Bad kids
- 4 Lack of civility/respect
- 3 Feelings of frustration/hopelessness
- 2 Lack of religion / God pushed out
- 2 Lack of discipline/self-control
- 2 Lack of morals
- 1 Stupidity

21 Political & Media Climate (Net)

- 11 Partisan hatred / Political divisiveness
- 7 People are upset with government
- 2 Polarizing rhetoric
- 2 Media coverage of politics / Talk shows
- 2 Extremists within Republican Party

14 Poor mental health services / problems

13 Gun laws / Too easy to get guns

9 Economic conditions / Unemployment

6 Violence (general)

1 Lack of security / Need security

17 Other

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan 13-16, 2011.

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE: Figures are based on those who say the shooting reflects broader problems in American society (N=307). For example, while 27% of these respondents mentioned aspects of the social climate, that represents just 8% of the public at large.

Figures add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

By comparison, Americans were more likely to see broader problems behind the Virginia Tech shootings nearly four years ago -- at that time, 46% thought the tragic events reflected broader societal problems.

Those who see broader social problems behind the shooting offer a variety of explanations. When asked to describe, in their own words, what the tragedy reflects in society, 27% point to problems in the social climate, such as the breakdown of society, the way children are raised, a lack of civility, respect, discipline and a general move away from religion, God and morality. But nearly as many (21%) believe that the shooting reflected problems in the political and media environment, such as political divisiveness and the impression that so many people are deeply unhappy with government these days.

Another 14% of those who see the Tucson shooting as reflective of broader social problems specifically mentioned problems in the mental health system, and 13% referred to weak gun laws

that make it too easy for people to get guns. Slightly fewer (9%) described economic stress and unemployment as factors behind the shooting.

155-14 **Media Analysis: How the Press Covered the Tragedy in Tucson**¹⁴

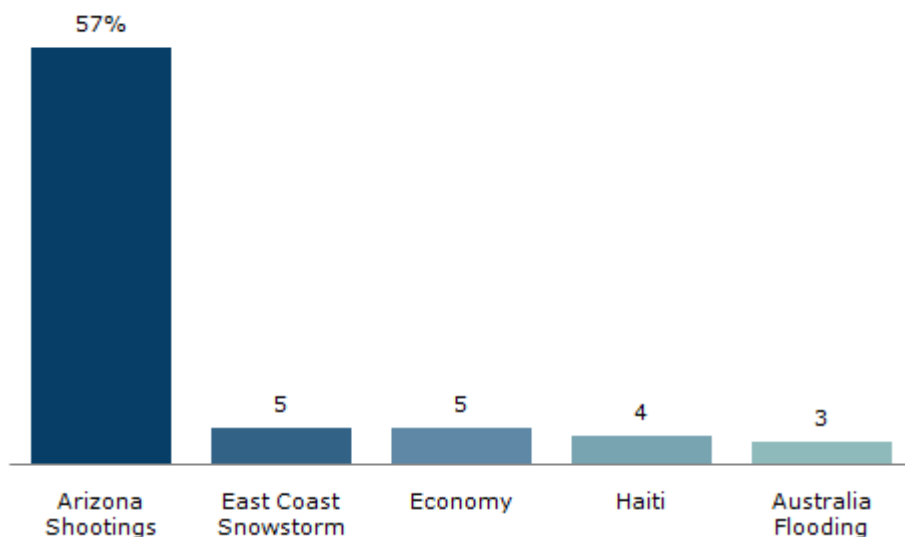
January 19, 2011

The aftermath of the Jan. 8 shooting spree in Tucson dominated the American news media last week in a way events rarely do: the tragedy registered as the third-biggest story in a single week since PEJ began tracking coverage in January 2007.

From Jan.10-16, the rampage that killed six and badly wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords accounted for 57% of the news coverage studied by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism.

Tucson Shooting Overwhelms the News Agenda

Percent of Weekly Newshole



News Coverage Index, January 10-16, 2011

PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S PROJECT FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

In the past four years, only two stories -- both about the 2008 election -- generated more attention. The first was the nomination of Barack Obama and John McCain's surprise selection of running mate Sarah Palin (69% from Aug. 25-Sept. 1). The second was the following week, Sept. 1-7, when the Republicans held their national convention (58%).

Aside from the sheer volume of media attention, what have the traumatic events in Tucson meant, as transmitted in the media narrative? This special report, combining PEJ's weekly News Coverage Index with social media analysis technology from Crimson Hexagon, finds several key elements emerging.

The Argument Over Political Rhetoric

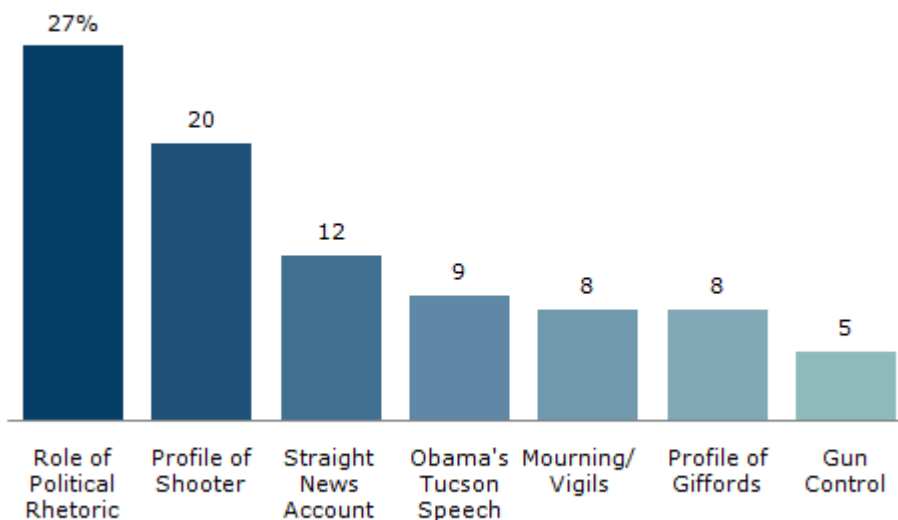
¹⁴ <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1863/media-analysis-giffords-shooting-political-rhetoric>

The single biggest shooting-related topic involved a discussion of the tenor of political discourse in America, including its role as a potential catalyst for the tragedy. That theme proved to be the biggest component of the coverage both in mainstream and social media alike.

According to the PEJ's News Coverage Index, which focuses on the mainstream press, the often-heated debate about public discourse accounted for more than a quarter (27%) of all coverage devoted to the shootings last week. That was more than the coverage about the alleged shooter, Jared Loughner, and his family (20%), the No. 2 Tucson storyline. And it more than doubled the coverage devoted to the third-biggest narrative, straight news accounts of the shooting and its aftermath (12%).

Political Rhetoric Leads Shooting Coverage

Percent of Arizona Shooting Newshole



News Coverage Index, January 10-16, 2011

PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S PROJECT FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

Nowhere in the mainstream media did that debate echo more loudly than on the ideological talk shows on radio and cable news. On radio, which includes commercial talk hosts, headlines and NPR, it filled 57% of the airtime devoted to the shooting. On cable, which includes prime-time and some daytime programming, it filled 32%.

Some conservative hosts accused the left of trying to smear the right by suggesting that heated political rhetoric was somehow responsible for the violence in Tucson.

As early as Monday Jan. 10, on his prime-time Fox News show, conservative host Bill O'Reilly said, "Only moments ... after Congresswoman Giffords was shot, some far-left loons began to spew their hatred: Conservatives encouraged Jared Loughner to pull the trigger. Sarah Palin, Michele Bachmann, Fox News, all spurred the psychopath to kill the six people. The merchants of hate who are peddling this stuff should be accountable."

In part, O'Reilly seemed to be responding to MSNBC host Keith Olbermann, who the night of the shooting had gone on the air to decry the tone of conservative rhetoric. On Tuesday Jan. 11,

Olbermann was responding to his critics. "Since the shooting [some] on the right have put forward the absolutely incoherent narrative that suggestions from the left that the right's rhetoric might have real world consequences is out of line -- because those remarks might have a real world consequence."

Olbermann also cited what he called Fox News boss Roger Ailes' suggestion that his own network should "turn [the rhetoric] down."

The topic of political discourse was less prominent elsewhere in the media. It accounted for 21% of the online news studied concerning the shooting. And it filled 18% of the front-page newspaper coverage devoted to the shooting and 18% in network morning and evening news on the story.

But the tone of public discourse was a more significant focus of the discussion in new media. According to a Crimson Hexagon analysis that began two days earlier than the NCI data (on Jan. 8), 29% of the conversation about the Giffords story measured on blogs and Twitter focused on public discourse. Crimson Hexagon technology analyzes online media by identifying statistical patterns in the words used to express opinions on different topics.

Using Crimson Hexagon, PEJ was also able to analyze the tone of this conversation. Here, considerably more of the discussion about political rhetoric featured the left blaming the right rather than the other way around. According to the analysis from Jan. 8-16, a full 59% of the commentary in blogs, Twitter and social media involved liberals blaming conservatives for their tone. That was more than twice the amount of the discussion (28%) that involved conservatives criticizing the left or defending themselves.

Typical of that commentary was a tweet by someone calling himself David D: "Funny, how Billy Oreillys of the world want rappers to watch their words but wanna give themselves & Sarah palin a pass." Another tweeter, RVAREgal wrote, "Things that make me rethink free speech-- Palin, Limbaugh, Robertson, Beck, et al."

Though smaller in number, some conservatives did fire back. "Sorry, but can't let Left MSM lie, smear, frame the debate, set their memes unopposed," tweeted Barbara McMahon.

In social media, the subject of public debate was followed closely by a discussion of the shooting incident itself, the aftermath, and the media's coverage of it. That filled 27% of the social media conversation. The No. 3 topic in social media was Obama's response to the incident, including his Jan. 12 speech and the memorial service to the victims (22%).

155-15 **Bipartisan Praise for Obama Memorial Speech**¹⁵

Arizona Rampage Dominates Public's News Interest

January 18, 2011

The aftermath of the deadly shooting rampage in Tucson, Ariz., dominated the public's news interest last week as President Obama's speech at a memorial service won praise -- across party lines -- among those who had read or heard about the event.

¹⁵ <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1862/poll-bipartisan-praise-obama-tucson-shooting-memorial-speech-palin-reaction>

Attention to Tucson and Other Recent Mass Shootings

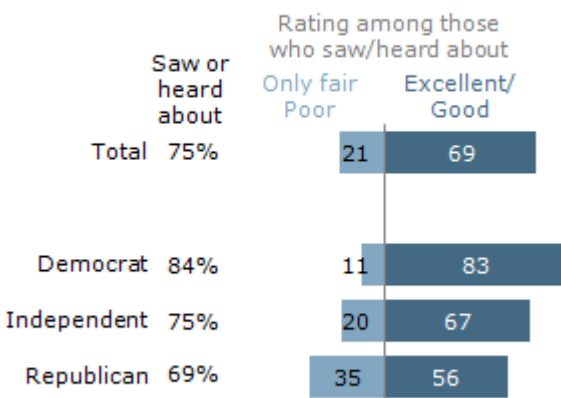
	Followed very closely %
1 Columbine High School (Apr '99)*	68
2 DC area sniper (Oct '02)*	65
3 Jonesboro, AR school (Mar '98)	49
4 Tucson, AZ. shooting (Jan '11)	49
5 Springfield, OR school (Jun '98)	46
6 Schools in PA, other states (Oct '06)	46
7 Virginia Tech (Apr '07)*	45
8 Officers shot at U.S. Capitol (Aug '98)	45
9 Fort Hood, TX (Nov '09)*	44
10 MI elementary school (Mar '00)	40

PEW RESEARCH CENTER News Interest Index. Dates show them month and year in which interest was measured. *Interest in these stories was tracked over multiple weeks; highest weekly interest is shown here.

About half of the public (49%) says they very closely followed news about the Jan. 8 shootings that left six dead and 13 wounded, including the gunman's apparent target, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. That is similar to the 45% that very closely followed news about the mass killings at Virginia Tech in April 2007 but less than the 68% who said they tracked news about the April 1999 shootings at a Columbine High School in Colorado that closely.

According to the latest News Interest Index survey, conducted Jan. 13-16 among 1,000 adults, Americans also followed news about the economy (37% very closely) and powerful winter storms that hit the east coast (35% very closely). But when the public is asked which story they followed most closely last week, both rank far behind the Tucson shootings.

Obama Speech Rated Positively



PEW RESEARCH CENTER January 13-16, 2011.

Most Americans say they heard at least a little about Obama's speech at the Jan. 12 memorial service at the University of Arizona (75%). Among that group, nearly seven-in-ten (69%) say the

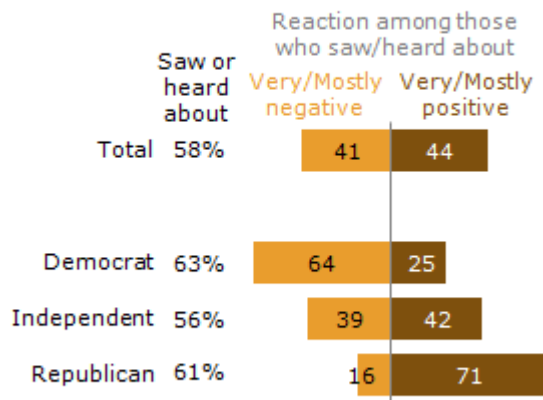
address was either excellent (36%) or good (33%), while 21% rate the speech as only fair (15%) or poor (6%).

More than eight-in-ten Democrats (83%) say the speech was excellent (55%) or good (28%). Just 11% say it was only fair and less than 1% rate it as poor.

Majorities of Republicans and independents who had heard about the speech also rated it positively. Among Republicans, 56% say the speech was either excellent (18%) or good (37%); 23% say it was only fair and 12% rate it as poor. Two-third of independents (67%) give the speech a positive rating (31% excellent, 35% good). Two-in-ten (20%) are more negative (13% only fair, 7% poor).

Reaction to Palin Speech Divided

A Divide Over Palin Remarks



PEW RESEARCH CENTER January 13-16, 2011.

By contrast, the response to Sarah Palin's comments about the shootings and their aftermath proved more mixed: 44% of those who heard at least a little about Palin's comments say their reaction was very (14%) or mostly (30%) positive, while 41% say their reaction was very (20%) or mostly (21%) negative. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say they had heard at least a little about Palin's comments, which were released on Jan. 12.

Among those who had heard about the speech by the former Alaska governor, the partisan divide in reaction is wide. Seven-in-ten Republicans (71%) say their reaction was very (26%) or mostly positive (45%), compared with just 25% of Democrats (8% very positive, 17% mostly positive). Independents largely mirror the public as a whole; 42% say their reaction was very (10%) or mostly positive (32%), while 39% say it was very (17%) or mostly negative (22%).

Too Much Palin?

More Republicans Hearing "Too Much" about Palin

Hearing about Palin...	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Jan 2011				
Too much	49	40	58	51
Too little	15	14	14	14
Right amount	29	42	21	26
Don't know	7	4	7	8
	100	100	100	100
Nov 2009				
Too much	52	29	72	50
Too little	13	15	6	15
Right amount	26	48	11	28
Don't know	9	7	11	7
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER January 13-16, 2011.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Nearly half of the public (49%) says they are hearing too much about Palin, 29% say they are hearing about the right amount and 15% say they are hearing too little. Those numbers are little changed from when the question was last asked in November 2009, but the once-yawning gap in partisan views on this question has narrowed.

Currently, nearly six-in-ten Democrats (58%) say they are hearing too much about Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate and a potential GOP candidate in 2012. Four-in-ten Republicans (40%) and 51% of independents say the same. In November 2009, amid the publicity for Palin's book "Going Rogue," 72% of Democrats said they were hearing too much about Palin, compared with 29% of Republicans and 50% of independents.

The Week's Other News

In a week dominated by news about the Tucson shootings, Americans continued to track news about the economy. Nearly four-in-ten (37%) say they followed economic news very closely, a level that has changed only slightly in recent weeks. Still, just 12% say this was the news they followed most closely.

About a third (35%) say they followed news about winter storms in the eastern United States very closely; 16% say this was the news they followed most closely. Not surprisingly, interest was highest in the Northeast and the South.

More than one-in-ten (13%) say they followed news about floods in Australia very closely; 3% say this was the news they followed most closely. Two other breaking foreign stories barely registered with the public. Just 4% say they followed news about the collapse of the Lebanese government very closely; 1% says this was the news they followed most closely. And 3% say they followed news about the independence vote in southern Sudan very closely. Less than 1% say this was the story they followed most closely.

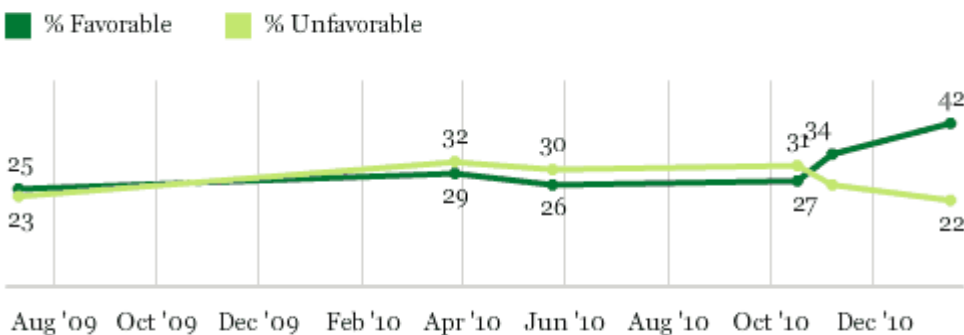
These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected Jan. 13-16, from a nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults.

155-16 Boehner Favorability Jumps; Obama Back Above 50%¹⁶

Ratings for Palin lowest since 2008 GOP convention
January 18, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' opinions of House Speaker John Boehner have improved considerably since last fall, rising a total of 15 percentage points, including eight points since immediately after the midterm elections. Though one in three Americans are still unfamiliar with Boehner, his ratings are now much more positive than negative, a shift from prior to the election, when they were about equally positive and negative.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of Speaker of the House, John Boehner



Note: 2009-2010 wording: House Republican Leader, John Boehner
Percentage with no opinion not shown.

GALLUP

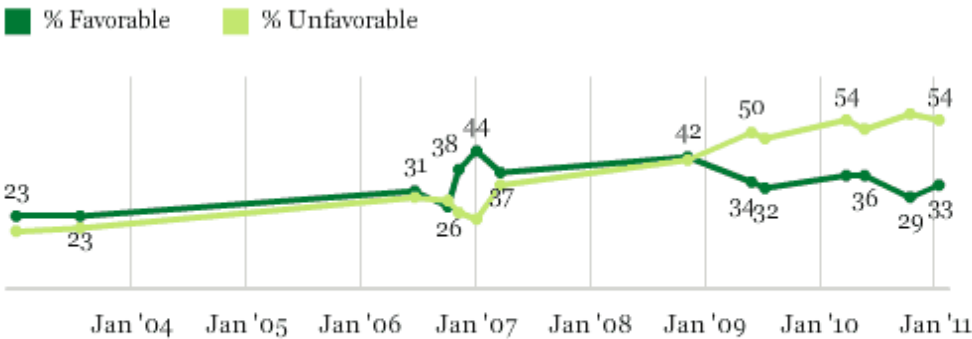
The Jan. 14-16 *USA Today*/Gallup poll finds that Boehner's favorable ratings have improved most among Republicans since October (from 46% to 65%), but are also up significantly among independents (from 23% to 39%) and Democrats (from 15% to 25%).

The improvement in Boehner's ratings is similar to what occurred for Nancy Pelosi when she rose to the speakership after the 2006 elections. In October 2006, Americans were largely divided in their views of her -- 26% favorable and 28% unfavorable. After she became speaker, 44% of Americans viewed her favorably and 22% unfavorably.

¹⁶http://www.gallup.com/poll/145664/Boehner-Favorability-Jumps-Obama-Back-Above.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

Since then, however, Pelosi's ratings have declined significantly. Two months into her speakership, Americans were once again divided in their views of her, and by May 2009, the public began to view her much more negatively than positively. That trend continues today, with 33% viewing the new House minority leader favorably and 54% unfavorably in the new poll.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of House Democratic Leader, Nancy Pelosi



Note: 2007-2010 wording: Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi
 Percentage with no opinion not shown.

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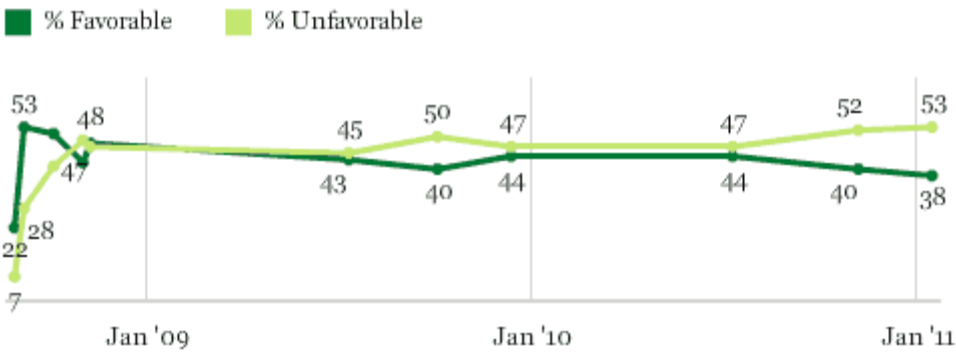
Newt Gingrich is the other recent member of Congress who became speaker after his party won the majority in midterm elections. Gingrich was largely unknown in October 1994, when he was orchestrating the "Contract With America" to help Republicans win control of Congress. At that time, 19% had a favorable opinion of him, 22% were unfavorable, and 59% did not have an opinion. By the time he became speaker in early 1995, he was better known, but did not receive the same positive response as did Pelosi and Boehner. Though his favorable rating increased 15 points to 34%, his unfavorable rating also rose 15 points to 37%. By March 1995, Americans viewed Gingrich much more negatively (47%) than positively (33%).

Palin's Image Worst Yet, Obama's Improves Slightly

Americans' opinions of three other major political figures -- President Barack Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and former Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin -- have varied little since last November. However, the current ratings for Palin and Obama are notable.

Palin's 38% favorable rating is her lowest (by two percentage points) since she became a well-known political figure after the 2008 Republican national convention, and her 53% unfavorable rating is her worst by a point. Palin has been a central figure in the recent debate over whether political rhetoric -- including hers -- was partly behind the Tucson shootings. Last week, she responded to these allegations by posting a much-publicized video response on the Internet. The recent news has not done much to change Americans' opinions of Palin, though.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of Sarah Palin

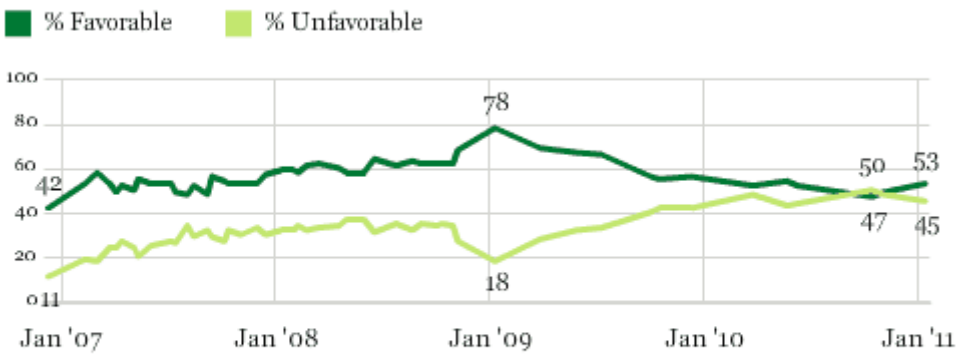


Note: Percentage with no opinion not shown.

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Obama's 53% favorable rating is up slightly from November, after two sub-50% ratings last fall, including a low of 47% as president last October. His all-time high of 78% came just before his inauguration two years ago.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of Barack Obama

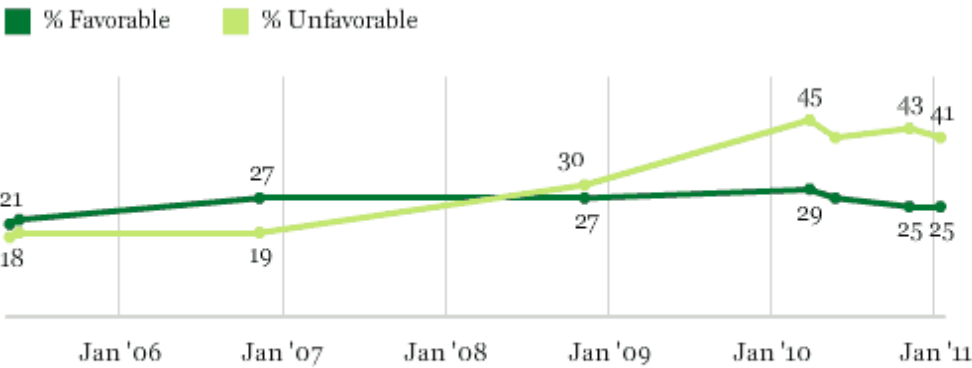


Note: Percentage with no opinion not shown.

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Reid continues to receive much more negative than positive ratings from Americans; his current 25% favorable and 41% unfavorable ratings are essentially unchanged since last fall. Gallup did not measure opinions of Reid when he took over as Senate majority leader in 2007, so it is unclear whether he received an increase in positive ratings similar to Pelosi's at that time.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of Senate Democratic Leader, Harry Reid



Note: Percentage with no opinion not shown.

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Implications

Americans have once again reacted warmly to a new speaker of the House, with Boehner getting a bump in his favorable ratings and the public now viewing him much more positively than negatively. History suggests the good feelings toward Boehner may not last, as both Pelosi and Gingrich saw their ratings get worse within months of becoming speaker.

At the same time, Palin and Obama, two potential opponents in the 2012 presidential election, are now viewed quite differently by Americans, with Palin generally viewed unfavorably and Obama favorably. Palin's increasingly negative image suggests she would be in a relatively weak position for winning a national election unless opinions of her shift in a more positive direction over the coming year.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Jan. 14-16, 2011, with a random sample of 1,032 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 2010 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.

155-17 **No Mandate for Clear U.S. Policy Leader Between Obama, GOP**¹⁷

January 17, 2011

Slight shift from last year, when Americans tilted toward Republicans

PRINCETON, NJ -- Neither President Obama nor the Republicans in Congress are the clear leaders when Americans are asked whom they want to have more influence over the direction the nation takes in the next year. Forty-five percent want Obama to have more influence, while 42% prefer the Republicans. This marks a slight change from surveys conducted in August and early November of last year, when Americans expressed a slight preference for the Republicans.

Who do you want to have more influence over the direction the nation takes in the next year -- Barack Obama (or) the Republicans in Congress?

	Obama	Republicans in Congress	Same/ Neither (vol.)
	%	%	%
Jan 7-9, 2011	45	42	8
Nov 4-7, 2010	41	49	7
Aug 27-30, 2010	43	48	6

(vol.) = Volunteered response

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The 112th Congress this week begins its first substantive work with Republicans in control of the House, after the pauses resulting from the Tucson shootings and the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. One of the first items on the agenda will be a vote Wednesday on the proposed Republican legislation that would [fully repeal Obama's healthcare bill](#) -- a highly visible effort by the new Republican House leadership to challenge one of Obama's signature achievements in his first two years in office. Republicans then plan to introduce a number of additional measures designed to push back against Obama's policies of the last two years.

Naturally enough, Democrats and Republicans across the country have diametrically opposite views on who should have more influence over the direction of the country. More than 8 out of 10 Democrats want Obama to have more influence, while about the same percentage of Republicans want their leaders in Congress to have more influence. Independents are about evenly split, but tilt in the direction of the Republicans in Congress.

¹⁷http://www.gallup.com/poll/145631/No-Mandate-Clear-Policy-Leader-Obama-GOP.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

Who do you want to have more influence over the direction the nation takes in the next year -- Barack Obama (or) the Republicans in Congress?

	Obama	Republicans in Congress	Same/ Neither (vol.)
	%	%	%
Republicans	10	82	6
Independents	39	43	13
Democrats	87	5	5

Jan. 7-9, 2011

(vol.) = Volunteered response

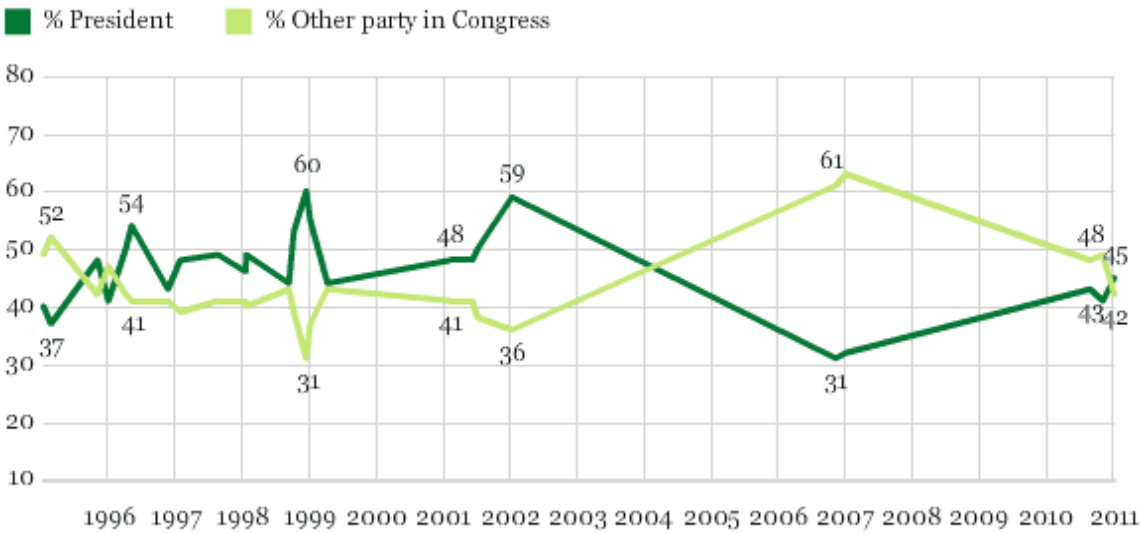
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Gallup asked this same question at varying times during the previous two presidential administrations.

Bill Clinton entered his third year in office in 1995 in a fairly weak position vis-à-vis Republicans in the minds of Americans -- significantly different than the position in which Obama finds himself today, at the beginning of his third year. In a February 1995 Gallup poll, 52% of Americans said the Republicans in Congress should have more influence, while 37% said Clinton should have more influence. By the spring of 1996, Clinton had gained the edge on this question, and after winning re-election in November of that year, he continued in a position of relative strength on this influence dimension for the most part during the final years of his administration.

George W. Bush entered office in a positive position in 2001, with Americans indicating in surveys conducted prior to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that he should have more influence than the Democrats in Congress. After the war in Afghanistan started in response to the attacks, Gallup in January 2002 found an even stronger preference for Bush to have more influence. Gallup didn't ask this "influence" question again until November 2006, just after that year's midterm elections in which Democrats regained control of Congress. By that time, the American public's attitudes had shifted significantly, with almost a 2-to-1 preference that the Democrats in Congress should have more influence than President Bush.

Who do you want to have more influence over the direction the nation takes in the next year?



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Implications

Republicans are in a stronger political position as this new political year begins than they were last year, by virtue of their new control of the House and increased number of Republican seats in the Senate. Still, taken as a whole, the American public is not playing favorites -- with as many people wanting Obama to have more influence as want the Republicans in Congress to have more influence on the nation's direction over the next year.

The divided control of government could lead to more debate and political rancor than actual accomplishment coming out of Washington this year. If so, that may fly to a degree in the face of Americans' preferences about how government should work. Despite their split preferences on whom they want to have the greatest influence over the course of the nation, [Americans generally prefer that their elected representatives attempt to compromise rather than sticking to their core beliefs](#) and thus preventing things from getting done.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Jan. 7-9, 2011, with a random sample of 1,018 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 2010 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.

155-18 **Americans More Optimistic Than Not About Obama, Economy**¹⁸

Relatively few believe government will function better with enhanced GOP role
 January 20, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- All three major political groups in the United States tend to be optimistic rather than pessimistic when asked how President Barack Obama's job performance over the next two years will compare to the first two years, with Democrats overwhelmingly positive. Though most Republicans and independents expect Obama's performance to be the same, on the margins they are more inclined to think Obama will do a better rather than a worse job.

Outlook for President Obama's Job Performance

Do you think President Obama will do a better job in the next two years than he has in his first two years, a worse job, or do you think he will do about the same?

	Better	Worse	About the same	Net optimistic
	%	%	%	(Pct. pts.)
National adults	39	10	50	+29
Democrats	64	3	33	+61
Independents	34	10	54	+24
Republicans	23	16	59	+7

USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 14-16, 2011

Net optimistic = % better minus % worse

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Half of Americans, overall, expect Obama's job performance in 2011 and 2012 to remain about the same, according to the Jan. 14-16 USA Today/Gallup survey. Relatively few -- 10% -- think it will get worse, while 39% predict it will get better.

¹⁸http://www.gallup.com/poll/145694/Americans-Optimistic-Not-Obama-Economy.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

Americans are also fairly upbeat when asked to predict the U.S. economy's direction over the same time frame. More than 4 in 10 think the economy will improve, while 20% say it will get worse. Here again, net optimism prevails among all three political groups, although it is particularly strong among Democrats.

Outlook for U.S. Economy

Do you think the U.S. economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same in the next two years?

	Better	Worse	About the same	Net optimistic
	%	%	%	(Pct. pts.)
National adults	43	20	36	+23
Democrats	60	14	25	+46
Independents	36	25	37	+11
Republicans	39	16	45	+23

USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 14-16, 2011

Net optimistic = % better minus % worse

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Less Optimism About Government Performance

Compared with its outlook for Obama and the economy, the public is somewhat less confident that the government as a whole will work better now that the Republicans control the U.S. House of Representatives.

While 59% of Republicans think government will work better as a result of the Republicans' newly gained power, far fewer independents (22%) and Democrats (10%) agree. However, Democrats are much more likely than independents to believe government will function worse, 41% vs. 16%. As a result, Democrats exhibit net pessimism on this question, while independents are slightly and Republicans strongly positive.

Outlook for How Government Will Work With Republicans in Charge of U.S. House

Do you think the government will work better now that the Republicans are in charge of the House of Representatives, will work worse, or will be about the same?

	Better	Worse	About the same	Net optimistic
	%	%	%	(Pct. pts.)
National adults	29	19	50	+10
Democrats	10	41	48	-31
Independents	22	16	60	+6
Republicans	59	2	38	+57

USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 14-16, 2011
 Net optimistic = % better minus % worse

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The political reality that the midterm elections have imposed on President Obama is that Republicans' -- and therefore conservatives' -- ability to shape legislation is greatly enhanced going forward. Half of Americans, including 79% of Republicans, 51% of independents, and 20% of Democrats, would like the president himself to pursue more conservative policies for the duration of his term.

Slightly more Democrats would prefer that Obama tack to the left than to the right; however, despite sharp criticism of Obama from some liberal commentators who feel let down by his decisions on taxes, healthcare, and Afghanistan, among other issues, far more Democrats think he should remain about the same.

Preferences for Ideological Direction President Obama Should Take

Over the next two years, do you think President Obama should pursue policies that are -- [more liberal, about the same, (or) more conservative]?

	More liberal	About the same	More conservative	Net more conservative
	%	%	%	
National adults	17	30	50	+33
Democrats	28	49	20	-8
Independents	16	30	51	+35
Republicans	7	12	79	+72

USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 14-16, 2011
 Net more conservative = % more conservative minus % more liberal

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Bottom Line

Recent Gallup polling finds Americans believing Obama's leadership could be stronger -- [particularly with respect to bringing about changes the country needs](#). Americans are nevertheless more optimistic than not that he will do better a better job over the next two years, even though half expect no change in his performance. In fact, they are more optimistic that Obama, personally, will do a better job than they are about the prospects for government as a whole.

The economy's direction over the duration of his term will be a major factor in how the public ultimately regards Obama. At this point, Americans are nearly as optimistic about the economy as they are about Obama, with net optimism exceeding 20 points for each. While the president's ability to directly affect the economy is somewhat limited, he will have more control over how Americans view his political ideology. The new poll suggests that he would fare best on that score by adopting more conservative policies, rather than adopting more liberal ones or even standing still. With Republicans wielding more power on Capitol Hill, that could also help Obama satisfy [Americans' desire that Republican and Democratic leaders focus on finding common ground](#).

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Jan. 14-16, 2011, with a random sample of 1,032 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 2010 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.

155-19 **Clear Support for Civil Unions - But Not Gay Marriage**¹⁹

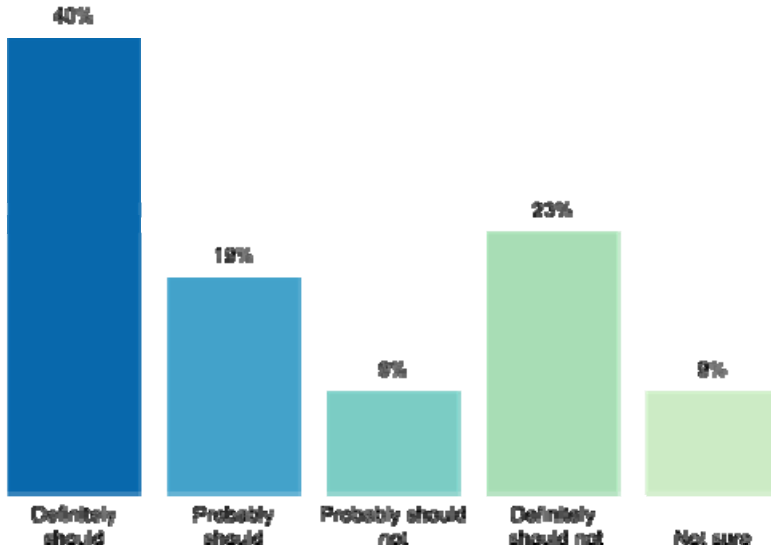
Thu January 13, 10:37 a.m. PST by **YouGov Staff** in *Economist Poll*

59% of Americans support legal civil unions for same-sex couples, giving those partners legal rights when it comes to things like health insurance, inheritance and pensions, according to the

¹⁹ <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/01/13/clear-support-civil-unions-not-gay-marriage/>

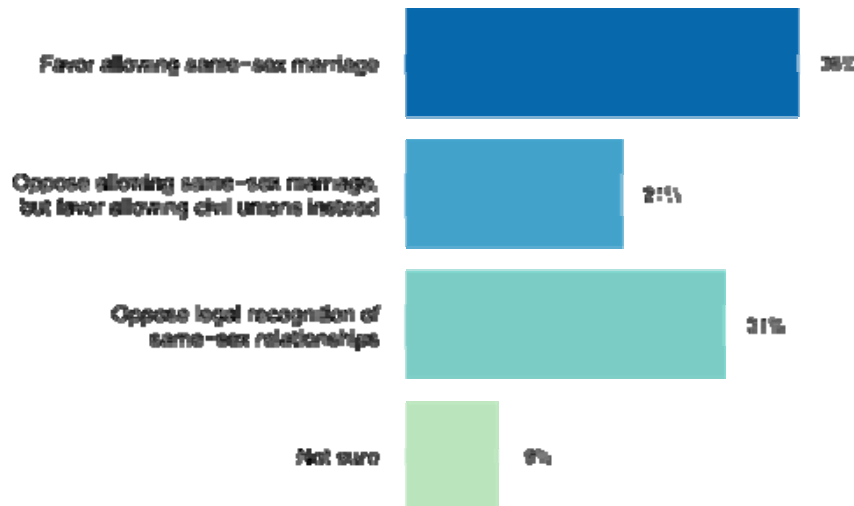
latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll. 32% oppose civil unions for same-sex couples, but that figure includes majorities of Republicans, conservatives and those 65 and older.

Do you think homosexual couples should be allowed to form civil unions, so that partners have the same legal rights and financial benefits as married couples in areas such as health insurance, inheritance, and pension coverage?



But although they support civil unions for same-sex couples, Americans don't go so far as to favor same-sex marriages. Just 38% favor them, including just over half of Democrats and those under 30 years old, and nearly half of college graduates and those who live in the Northeast.

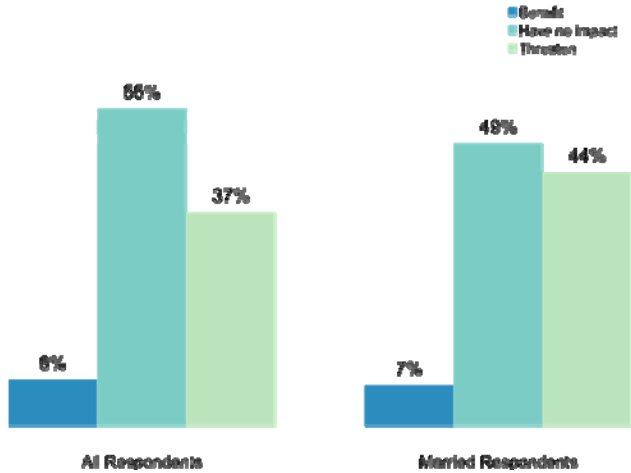
Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?



Women support civil unions and gay marriages to a somewhat greater extent than men do: 62% of women and 55% of men favor same-sex civil unions; 40% of women and 36% of men would extend marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples.

Support for gay rights has increased in recent years (for example, most polls --- including this one --- now show majority support for allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military). But although a majority overall in this poll (58%) say homosexuality should be accepted by society, there are groups that strongly resist this: majorities of Republicans, conservatives and Southerners believe society should discourage homosexuality.

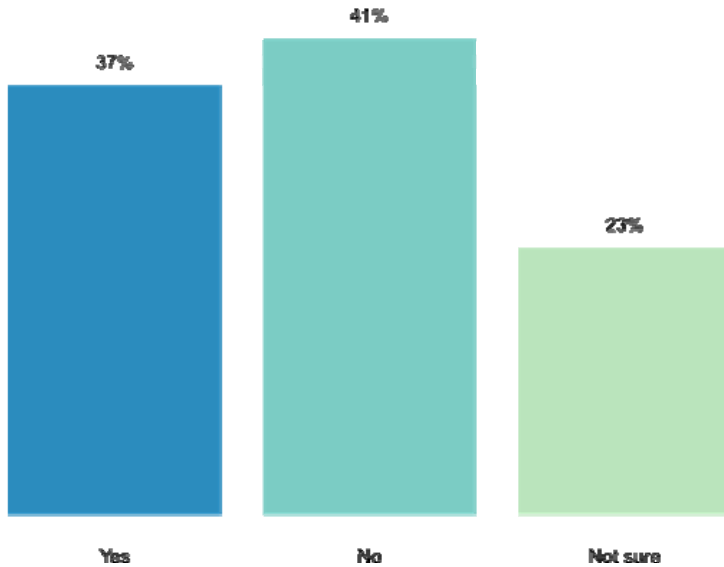
What would be the impact of legalizing same sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?



Those currently married express even more concern: 44% of them say allowing same-sex marriages would threaten marriages like their own --- nearly as many say that same-sex marriages would have no impact on traditional marriages.

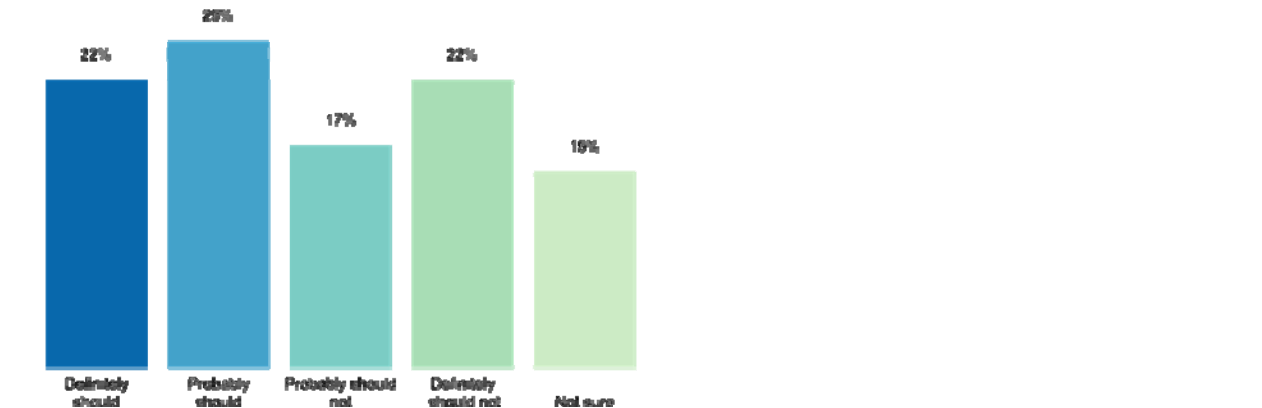
The Constitutional argument --- that not allowing same-sex couples to marry would violate their rights --- gets little support from Americans. 37% agree with that claim, but 41% don't, with the rest of the public not sure one way or the other.

Do laws prohibiting gay marriage violate the constitutional rights of homosexuals?



Traditional marriage and government's role in legalizing it still gets public support: only 40% would take government out of the marriage picture and just provide civil unions for everyone. And when asked whether government should be involved in certification of marriage, Americans agree by 47% to 39%. And there is little party or age difference about this.

A valid marriage requires that a couple file a marriage license, signed by both spouses and the marriage officiant, with the proper state authorities. Do you think that the government should be involved in the certification of marriages?

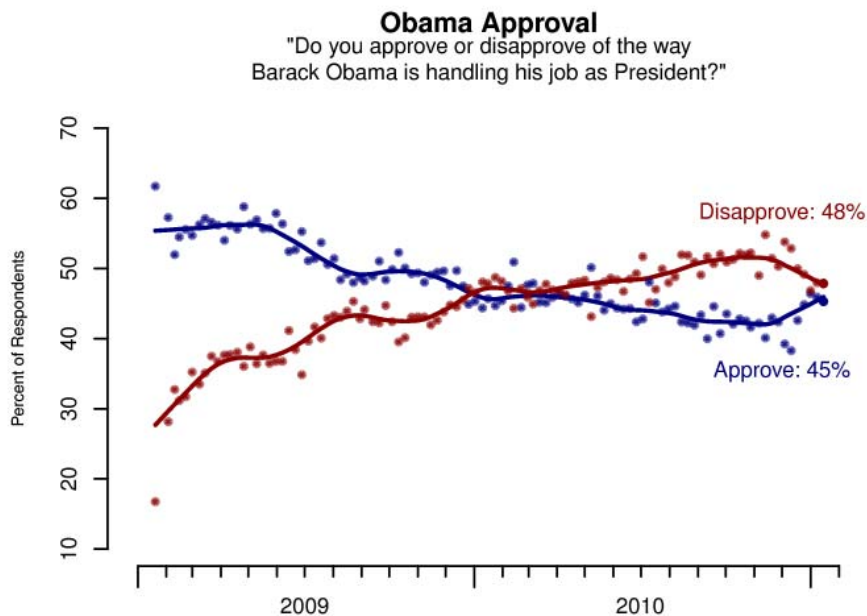


155-20 **After Two Years: The President and the Public**²⁰
 Thu January 20, 10:59 a.m. PST by YouGov Staff in Economist Poll

Although in the past year public approval of President Obama's performance in office dropped to its all-time low, the President starts his third year just about where he was a year ago, with a

²⁰ <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/01/20/after-two-years-president-and-public/>

nation pretty much evenly divided on his performance in office: 45% of Americans approve of how he is handling his job as President, while 48% disapprove.

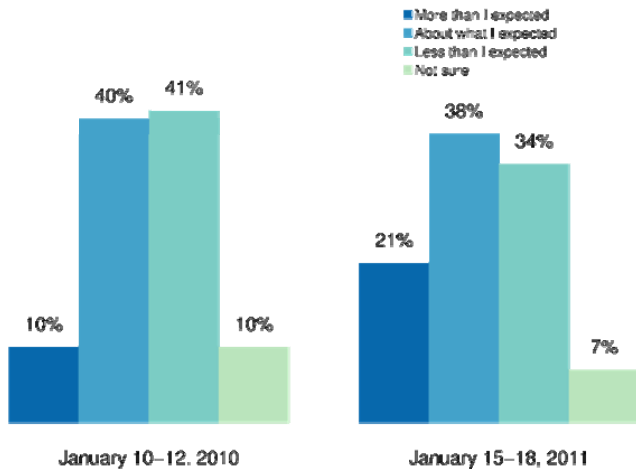


The public's assessment of the President improved in the last few weeks, as the President won some victories in December's lame duck Congressional session. Americans also approve of his response to the January 8 shootings in Tucson, Arizona. Those shootings took the lives of six people, including a federal judge and a 9-year-old girl, and critically injured the area's Democratic Congresswomen, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

However, when compared to a year ago, Americans today are feeling somewhat better about their President.

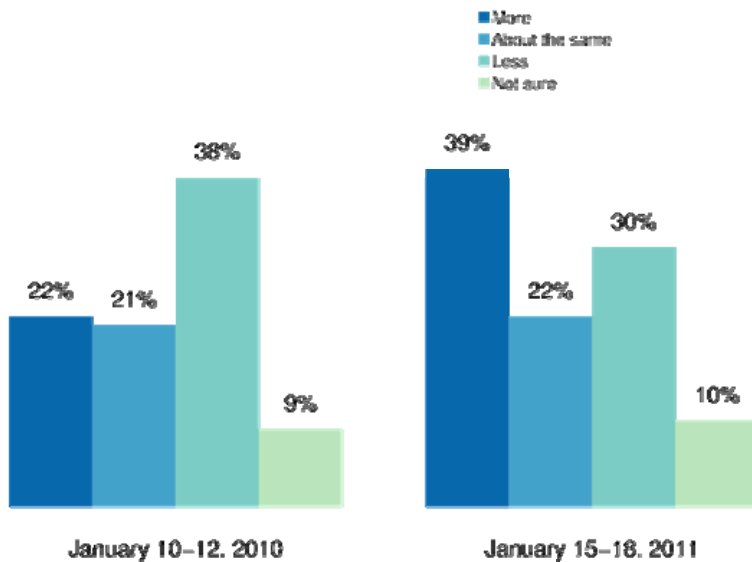
Although 34% of the public say he has accomplished less than they expected he would, that number is down seven points from January 2010. And the percentage saying President Obama has accomplished more than they expected has doubled in the last year.

Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...



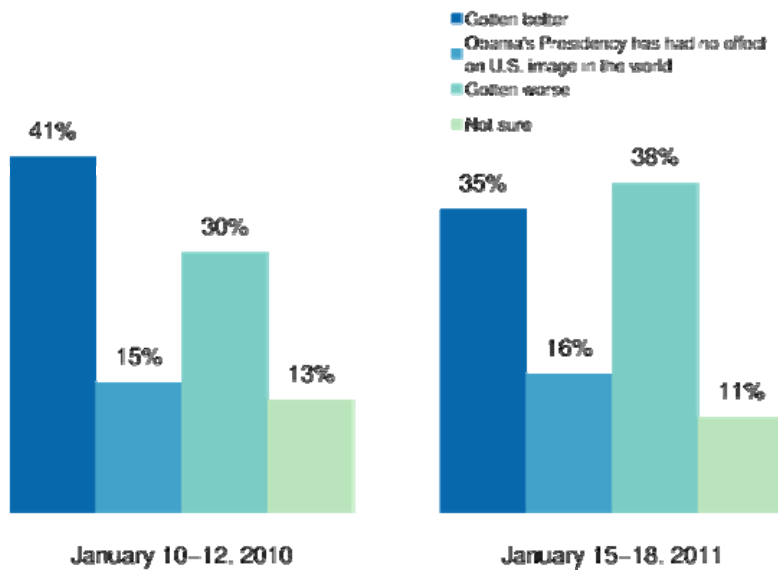
So when Americans compare the current President to his predecessors, 39% today say he has done more than a typical President does in his first two years, up seven points from last January, when Americans were asked to assess Barack Obama's first year in office. 30% say he has accomplished less than a typical President – but that number is down eight points from last January.

Do you think President Obama accomplished more or less than Presidents usually do in their first year/two years in office?



However, the public today is divided on whether he has improved the country's image in the world or made the U.S. image worse. A year ago, by 41% to 30%, they thought his Presidency had improved the country's image.

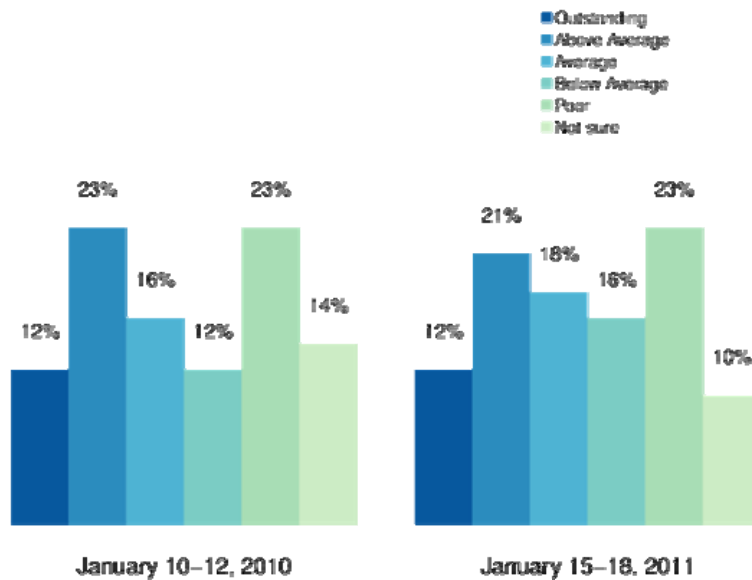
Since Barack Obama has been President, do you think the United States' image in the world has gotten better or worse?



Other measures have shown little or no change, with Americans just about as closely divided today as they were a year ago on whether Barack Obama is a strong or weak leader, and whether he is leading the country in the right direction.

And when Americans judge Barack Obama's place in history, there is little movement. 39% now say he will be seen as a below average or poor President. Last year, 35% put him in that category, the same percentage that then called him outstanding or above average. This year, just about the same percentage, 33%, say that.

As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?



155-21 **Canadians cautiously optimistic about economy heading into 2011: survey**²¹
 21.01.2011 Canada

Canadians are expressing glimmers of optimism on the economy

TORONTO, January 20, 2011 – Canadians are expressing glimmers of optimism on the economy as we head into the New Year. TNS Canada’s Monthly Consumer Confidence Index showed a slight but significant gain of 2.3 points in January, beginning the year at 98.4. Canadians also feel slightly better about the present economic situation, as well as their economic prospects for the next six months. Only the Buy Index, which measures consumers’ intent to purchase “big ticket items” showed an ever-so-slight post-holiday decline.

“Consumers are teasing us” said Norman Baillie-David, Vice President of TNS Canada and Director of the Marketing and Social Research firm’s monthly tracking study. “Canadians haven’t been able to decide whether or not to invest their emotional capital into trusting the economy on a sustained basis. Confidence has been jumping up and down for the last six months. January’s numbers are up, but it’s too early to tell whether or not they’ll be up again as we progress into the year. Canadians are looking for some signal that will make us able to trust in the economy on a sustained basis.”

The Present Situation Index, which captures evaluations of the overall state of the current economic and employment situation, has also rebounded after a marked drop in December. After falling 4.5 points to end the year at 89.0, the index gained 3.6 points to 92.6 in January. The Expectations Index, which measures consumers’ outlook for the economy, household

²¹ <http://www.tnsglobal.com/news/news-1BCB9486B28A4D9CB4EAA674601A9F8D.aspx>

income and employment in the next six months, saw a 3.2 point increase to open the year at 107.8 – the highest the index has been since May 2010; and another reason to be hopeful that the confidence is here to stay.

The Buy Index, which gauges the degree to which people think the current period is a good time to make major purchases, saw a slight decrease to open 2011, which is not uncommon in January. “It’s also interesting to note the slight decline of 0.3 points in the Buy Index as Canadian consumers ratchet back some of their spending plans in the wake of January bills. While normally a decrease in the Buy Index would represent bad news, this slight decline – even if only temporary – at least shows that some Canadian consumers are heeding the message to watch their debt. We’ll see in February whether or not that message sticks.” This is also borne out by the fact that Canadians say they actually spent a tad less this past holiday season, with an average of \$1,008, compared to last year’s average of \$1,024.

Consumer Confidence Index tracks Canadians’ attitudes about the economy each month and is part of a global study conducted by TNS in 18 countries. Three indices are produced each month to show how confidence in the economy is changing: Present Situation Index; an Expectations Index; and a Buy Index. The Canadian fieldwork is conducted using the firm’s national bi-weekly telephone omnibus service, TNS Express Telephone. A total of 1,015 nationally representative Canadian adults were interviewed between January 10 and 13, 2011. For a survey sample of this size, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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TNS is the world’s largest custom research agency delivering actionable insights and research-based business advice to its clients so they can make more effective business decisions. TNS offers comprehensive industry knowledge within the Consumer, Technology, Finance, Automotive and Political & Social sectors, supported by a unique product offering that stretches across the entire range of marketing and business issues, specializing in product development & innovation, brand & communication, stakeholder management, retail & shopper, and qualitative research. Delivering best-in-class service across more than 70 countries, TNS is part of the Kantar Group. Please visit www.tnsglobal.com for more information.

About Kantar

Kantar is one of the world's largest insight, information and consultancy networks. By uniting the diverse talents of its 13 specialist companies, the group aims to become the pre-eminent provider of compelling and inspirational insights for the global business community. Its 26,500 employees work across 95 countries and across the whole spectrum of research and consultancy disciplines, enabling the group to offer clients business insights at each and every point of the consumer cycle. The group’s services are employed by over half of the Fortune Top 500 companies.

AUSTRALASIA

155-22 **Over 70% of customers satisfied with Mobile Phone Service Provider**²²

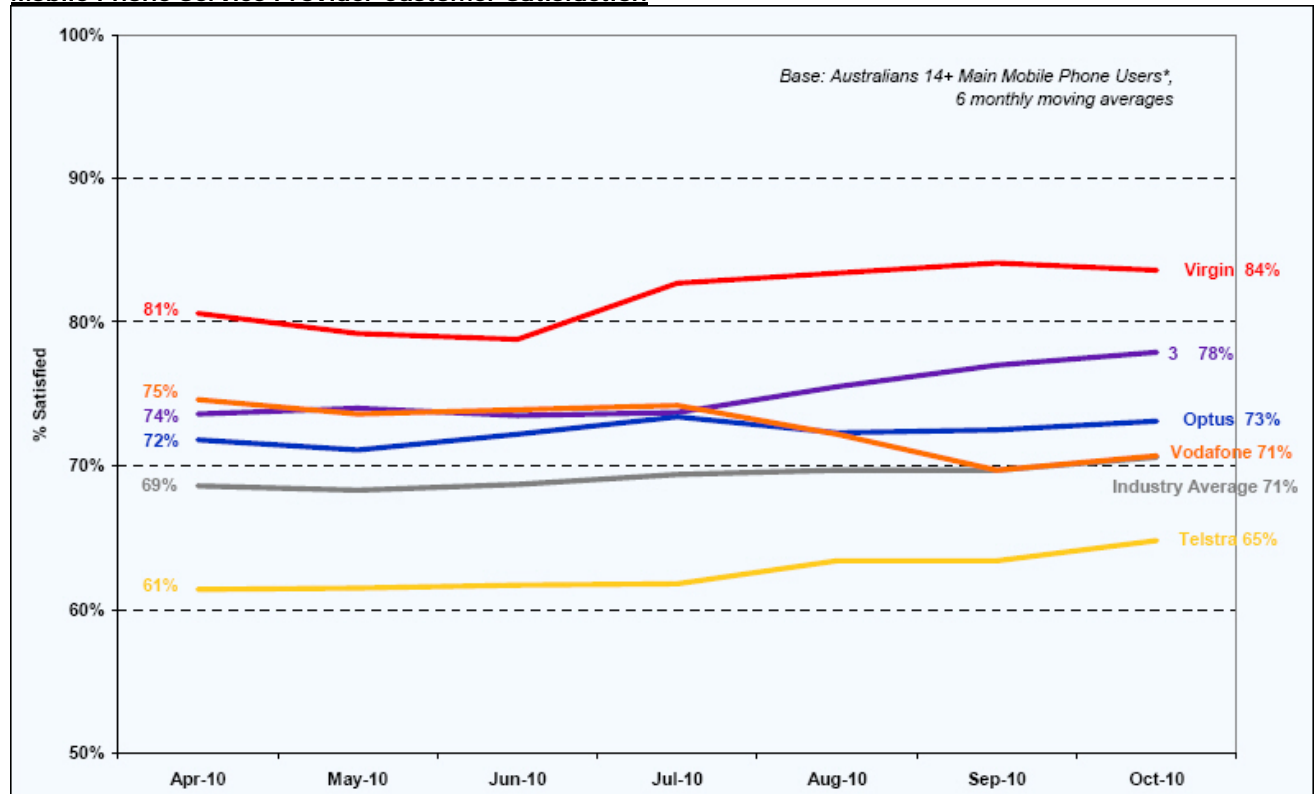
Article No. 1251 - Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (November 2009 - October 2010). Total main user of at least one mobile phone and gave provider n= 14,956.: January 17, 2011

Overall customer satisfaction with mobile service providers continues its upward trend and has increased to 71% in the six months to October 2010.

Virgin maintains its impressive lead with a customer satisfaction level of 84%. Telstra continues its upward trend to 65% (up from 63% in September) closing the gap on the industry average and its competitors.

Vodafone (71%) has improved following recent declines to be on par with the industry average, whilst 3 also part of the VHA group has substantially increased its satisfaction levels over the recent 6 months.

Mobile Phone Service Provider Customer Satisfaction



Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (November 2009 - October 2010). Total main user of at least one mobile phone and gave provider n= 14,956. "% Satisfied" refers to the proportion of all customers who are "Very" or "Fairly" satisfied with their overall service with that mobile phone service provider (on a five point scale). Total industry figure excludes those who 'can't say' their provider. NOTE: Satisfaction score is provided by the respondent for the brand that the respondent has a relationship with.

²² <http://www.roymorgan.com/news/press-releases/2011/1251/>

Andrew Braun, Director Mobile, Internet and Technology, Roy Morgan Research, says:

"Has the ACMA review prompted service providers to place a greater emphasis on customer service? Or is it that the mobile phone market is changing from a focus on market expansion to a focus on consumer needs? In either case it is evident is that the later part of the year has seen a resurgent Telstra that other providers will be monitoring with interest."

These profiles provide a broad understanding of the target audience, in terms of demographics, attitudes, activities and media usage in Australia.

About Roy Morgan Research

These findings are derived from Roy Morgan Research Single Source data. Roy Morgan Research is the largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state of Australia, as well as in New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom. A full service research organisation specialising in omnibus and syndicated data, Roy Morgan Research has more than 65 years' experiences in collecting objective, independent information on consumers. In Australia, Roy Morgan Research is considered to be the authoritative source of information on telecommunications & financial behaviour, readership, voting intentions and consumer confidence. Roy Morgan Research is a specialist in recontact customised surveys which provide invaluable and effective qualitative and quantitative information regarding customers and target markets.

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

155-23 Britain Tops The Property Gloom Rankings²³

Date: 19 January 2011

More than two thirds (68 per cent) of people in the UK think that this is a bad time to buy real estate according to the latest findings by Ipsos MORI. Conversely, Indians are the most positive about their property market, with 64 per cent saying that this is a good time to purchase property.

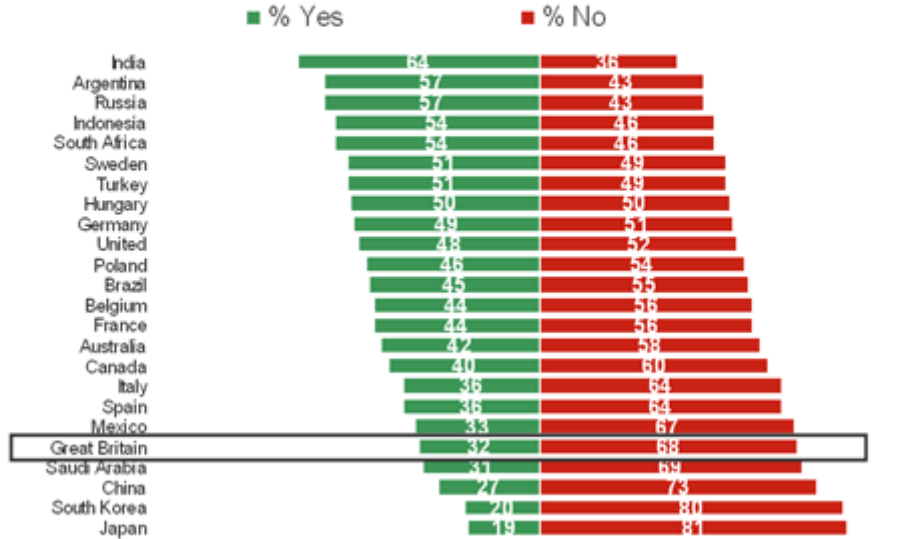
The [Ipsos Global @dvisor](#) survey of 24 countries around the world asked people if they think it will be a good time to buy real estate, such as a house, vacation property or investment property in the next 30 days. Only four countries (Saudi Arabia, China, South Korea and Japan) were more negative about the idea of buying property in the current climate than the UK.

European countries as a whole are cautious about the idea of buying new property, with Russia the most positive with 57 per cent saying that now is a good time to buy. Sweden (51 per cent) and Germany (49 per cent) were split on the issue while the rest of Europe, particularly Britain, remain negative.

²³ <http://www.ipsos-mori.com/newsevents/latestnews/624/Britain-tops-the-property-gloom-rankings.aspx>

Purchasing Real Estate

Thinking of the next 30 days, do you think it will be a good time to buy real estate, such as a house, vacation property or investment property?



Ipsos MORI

Base: c.500 - 1,000 residents aged 16-64 (18-64 in the US and Canada) in each country; 8th-20th October 2010.

Source: Ipsos Global @davisor



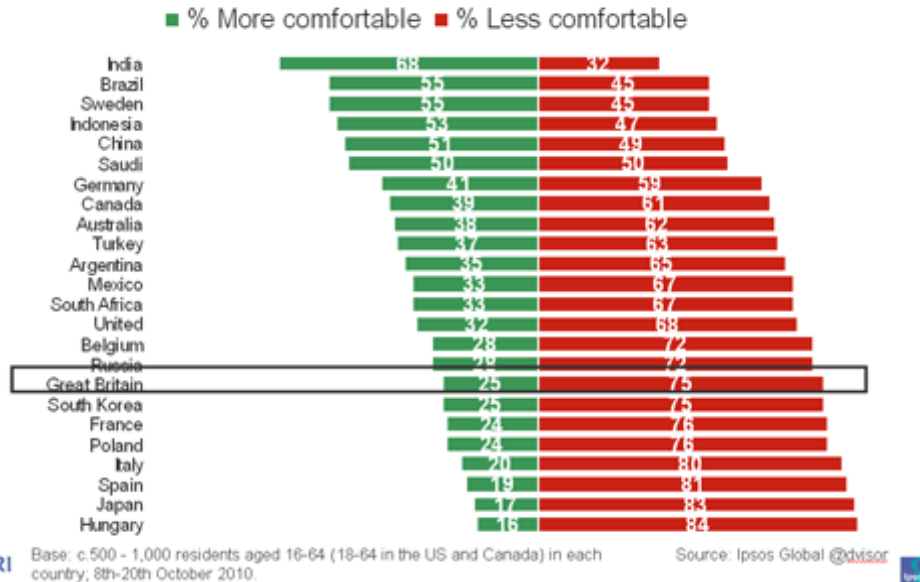
As a nation we also feel more negative about making big purchases than we were in the recent past. Three quarters (75 per cent) of people in Britain say they are now less comfortable buying a house or a car than they were six months ago.

A spokesperson for Ipsos MORI said: “It’s not good news for the housing market that people not only think that now is a bad time to buy a house, but also that it’s a worse time than six months ago.

We are currently seeing a lot of examples of the public being cautious about spending until they feel confident about the economy. The green shoots might be there but it will take more than that to get people moving house.”

Making a Major Purchase

Compared to 6 months ago, are you NOW more or less comfortable making a major purchase, like a home or car?



155-24 **Worldwide, 40% Are Employed Full Time for an Employer**²⁴

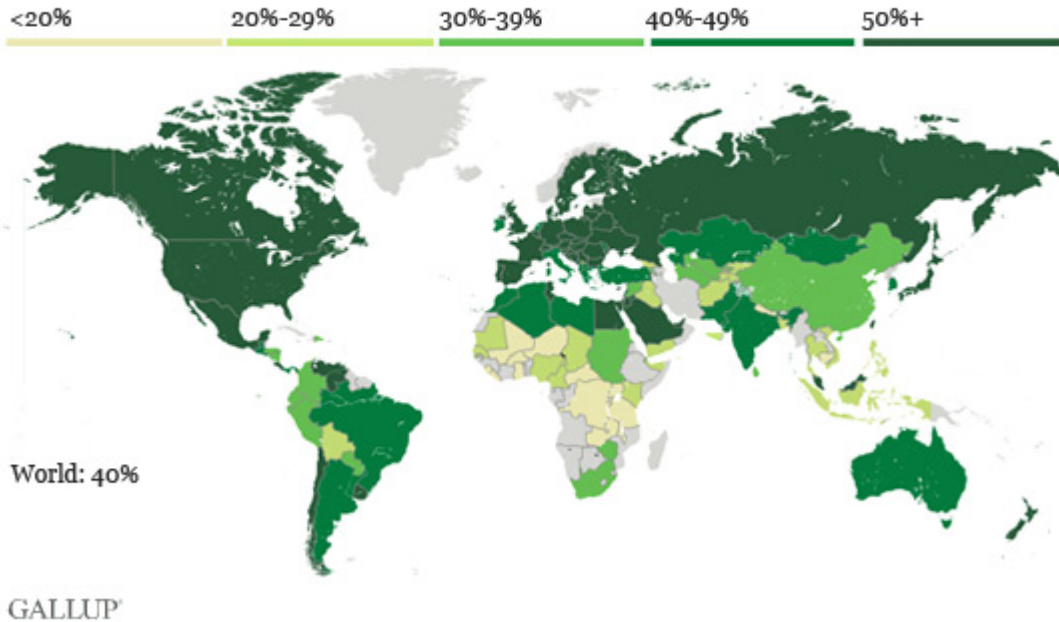
New measure of good jobs is more clearly related to GDP than unemployment
January 19, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Forty percent of the global workforce was employed full time for an employer in 2009 and 2010, according to Gallup surveys from 129 countries and areas. Nineteen percent were underemployed, including 7% who were unemployed.

²⁴http://www.gallup.com/poll/145595/Worldwide-Employed-Full-Time-Employer.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Asia%20-%20Latin%20America%20-%20Muslim%20World

Employed Full Time for an Employer

Percentage working for an employer for at least 30 hours per week



[Explore complete data >](#)

These are the first results Gallup has released from its newly developed global unemployment measures. Based on a series of employment questions Gallup asks respondents in surveys conducted at least once per year in most countries, Gallup quantifies the percentage of the global, regional, and country-level workforce that is employed full time for an employer, underemployed, and unemployed. Together, these metrics paint an unprecedented picture of the state of employment worldwide based on data that are easily comparable across countries. The results reported in this article represent an aggregate of data collected in 2009 and 2010.

[Gallup's Employed Full Time for an Employer Index](#) quantifies the percentage of workers in *good* jobs, rather than subsistence jobs that do little to raise individuals out of poverty or contribute to the country's formal economic output.

The Employed Full Time for an Employer Index has a strong, positive relationship with GDP per capita, meaning that countries with a higher percentage of workers employed full time for an employer tend to have higher GDP per capita. Gallup's Underemployment Index also has a strong negative relationship with GDP per capita. That is, countries with high underemployment tend to have lower GDP per capita. When examined across countries, Gallup research has found no relationship between unemployment rates and GDP per capita.

In many developing countries, unemployment is often relatively low, particularly compared with that in developed economies, because it takes into account people who are doing whatever work they can find to get by or are self-employed in subsistence jobs. Economically developed countries are more likely to have larger percentages of the workforce employed for an employer, but these percentages vary by country.

Regionally, sub-Saharan Africa has the smallest percentage of its workforce working full time for an employer, with nearly one in five reporting that they have a full-time job with an employer. Asia follows, with more than one-third of its workforce working for an employer. Countries in the former Soviet Union region have the largest percentage of the workforce working full time for an employer.

Global Employment, 2009 and 2010

Percentage of workforce surveyed in 129 countries and areas

	% Employed full time for an employer	% Underemployed	% Unemployed
Worldwide	40	19	7
Former Soviet Union	59	15	6
Europe	56	20	9
Americas	52	24	10
Middle East and North Africa	48	21	10
Asia	35	16	5
Sub-Saharan Africa	19	31	9

Non-Arab expats were excluded from the sample in Arab Gulf countries.

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Underemployment is highest in sub-Saharan Africa. The relatively low number of individuals working for an employer and high number of underemployed underscores the economic woes in the region and that good jobs are needed.

Gallup's Underemployment Index captures traditional unemployment, as well as those who are employed part-time but seeking additional work. Traditional unemployment measures classify an individual as employed if he or she works for even a few hours a week. However, this does not tell the true story of employment status. The availability of part-time work may disguise an underlying lack of full-time jobs, which goes undetected with unemployment measures. Gallup's underemployment measure is a truer depiction of the percentage of the workforce that is not working at its desired capacity.

Implications

Global leaders today are making job creation a top priority. But until now, they did not have the measures they needed to determine whether they are creating *good jobs*.

Gallup's new Employed Full Time for an Employer Index measures the availability of *quality jobs*, and Gallup's Underemployment Index provides a true picture of the global workforce working at its desired capacity. Worldwide leaders can use these measures to track their progress toward increasing the number of quality jobs available, the percentage of workers employed in those jobs, and, in turn, their nation's GDP.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, per survey administration. Interviews were conducted in 129 countries throughout 2009 and 2010. In many countries, the data have been aggregated. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 1.4 in India to a high of ± 4.7 in Latvia. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of survey data.

155-25 Civic Engagement Highest in Developed Countries²⁵

People less likely to volunteer time than donate money, help stranger

January 18, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Gallup studies worldwide show people with high civic engagement are positive about the communities where they live and actively give back to them. Data from 130 countries show that, in general, adults in developed countries are much more likely to be civically engaged than those in the developing world.

Most Civically Engaged Countries

Across 130 countries

	Civic Engagement Index score	Donated money	Volunteered time	Helped a stranger
United States	60	65%	43%	73%
Ireland	60	75%	38%	65%
Australia	59	71%	36%	68%
New Zealand	57	63%	39%	69%
United Kingdom	57	79%	28%	63%
Netherlands	54	75%	37%	51%
Canada	54	62%	34%	65%
Sri Lanka	51	53%	46%	55%
Thailand*	50	83%	16%	52%
Hong Kong	49	73%	16%	59%

Country-level weights were applied to this analysis.

*Data collected in 2009. All other data are from 2010.

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Gallup measures civic engagement by assessing individuals' likelihood to volunteer their time and assistance to others. Respondents are asked whether they have done any of the following in

²⁵http://www.gallup.com/poll/145589/Civic-Engagement-Highest-Developed-Countries.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Religion%20and%20Social%20Trends%20-%20USA

the past month: donated money to a charity, volunteered time to an organization, or helped a stranger or someone they didn't know who needed help. In 127 out of 130 countries, people are much more likely to either say they have helped a stranger in need or donated money in the past month than they are to say they volunteered their time to an organization.

Gallup combines people's responses to these three questions to create a Civic Engagement Index score for each country, with higher scores indicating a higher level of civic engagement. While the most civically engaged countries are primarily in the developed world, the level of participation in each activity the index measures varies significantly among countries. For example, 83% of Thais say they donated money to charity in the past month, among the highest levels in the world. However, 16% say they volunteered their time. Conversely, Americans are much less likely than Thais to say they donated money, but Americans are among the most likely in the world to say they volunteered their time.

Least Civically Engaged Countries

Six of the 11 countries with the lowest levels of civic engagement are located in the Balkans and southern Europe. In each of these countries, the likelihood to participate in these activities is well below the world averages. The only exceptions are the one in four in Bosnia and Herzegovina who say they donated money to a charity in the past month and the 44% of Algerians who helped a stranger.

Least Civically Engaged Countries

Across 130 countries

	Civic Engagement Index score	Donated money	Volunteered time	Helped a stranger
Algeria	19	9%	5%	44%
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	19	25%	3%	29%
Palestinian Territories	18	10%	9%	35%
Lithuania	18	7%	9%	38%
Bulgaria	17	13%	5%	32%
Albania*	16	12%	6%	30%
Rwanda*	16	15%	11%	21%
Serbia*	14	13%	4%	25%
Greece	13	7%	3%	28%
Burundi	12	9%	7%	21%
Croatia	11	8%	2%	23%

Country-level weights were applied to this analysis.

*Data collected in 2009. All other data are from 2010.

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Bottom Line

Measuring global civic engagement and identifying key indicators of these behaviors are essential to developing methods for improving community wellbeing. In the second article of this series, Gallup will explore the relationship between civic engagement, education, wellbeing, and religiosity.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone/face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in 127 countries, 2,000 adults in Russia, 4,150 in China, and 6,000 adults in India, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2009 and 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 1.7 percentage points in India to a high of ± 4.7 percentage points in Haiti. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

155-26 **Continued Public Support for Going Beyond GDP: Global Poll**²⁶

21 January, 2011, 09:00 GMT

London – A new global poll across 12 countries reveals that more than two-thirds of people polled think that economic statistics like GDP are an inadequate way of measuring national progress.

The poll finds that 68% believe that health, social and environmental statistics are as important as economic data, and that governments should also use those to measure national progress. However, the findings also show that support for going beyond GDP has slipped back in some countries since the last time the survey was conducted, in 2007.

Almost 12,000 people across industrialised and developing countries were interviewed for the poll by GlobeScan, in collaboration with Ethical Markets. The findings show that Germans (84% of whom want governments to also focus on health, social and environmental data to measure progress) are the most dissatisfied with GDP, followed by Brazilians (83%), Italians (79%) and Canadians (76%).

In the UK, where Prime Minister David Cameron has an initiative to develop new measures similar to Canada's Index of Wellbeing, 70% favour going beyond GDP in measuring national progress. However, support fell from 80% in 2007.

Falls in support, including India (70% to 37%), Kenya (71% to 50%) and France (86% to 72%), are addressed in the report. Support increased in Canada (65% to 76%), Brazil (69% to 83%) and Germany (71% to 84%)

The telephone and in-person survey of 11,969 adults in 12 countries was conducted between June 24 and September 11 2010 by the international polling firm GlobeScan. Results are considered accurate within +/- 3.0 to +/- 3.5 per cent 19 times out of 20. The poll is part of a 26-country global study.

²⁶ http://www.globescan.com/news_archives/ethicalmarkets2011/

Hazel Henderson, President of Ethical Markets Media (USA and Brazil), said: “These findings show that there is very strong public support for going beyond GDP. Yet GDP scorecards are still misleading governments, banks and investors by omitting indicators on future trends and national assets: infrastructure, well-trained workforces and productive ecosystems—all valued at zero in GDP.”

Market predictions of defaults of EU member countries are based on their GDPs—which short-changes their real wealth. Resentment at the unfairness of the bailouts in the EU and USA has emerged as financial markets shifted costs to governments and taxpayers. Many broader indicators now available can help investors and nations find new paths out of austerity and recession, including the UN’s Human Development Index, the Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators (www.calvert-henderson.com) and the Green Transition Scoreboard (www.greentransitionscoreboard.com).

About Ethical Markets Media

Ethical Markets Media (USA and Brazil)

www.EthicalMarkets.com and www.mercadoetico.com.br is a multi-media social enterprise founded in 2004 in the USA by futurist/author Hazel Henderson. Its mission is to reform markets and grow the green, sustainable economy globally. Henderson and the Calvert Group created the Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators (www.Calvert-Henderson.com). Henderson served on the Organizing Committee for the European Commission's BEYOND -GDP conference in the European Parliament, Nov 2007 (www.beyond-gdp.eu)

CYBER WORLD

155-27 **Social Side of the Internet**²⁷

January 18, 2011

The internet is now deeply embedded in group and organizational life in America. A new national survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project has found that 75% of all American adults are active in some kind of voluntary group or organization, and internet users are more likely than others to be active: 80% of internet users participate in groups, compared with 56% of non-internet users. And social media users are even more likely to be active: 82% of social network users and 85% of Twitter users are group participants.

The overall impact of the internet on group activities and accomplishments

In this survey, the Pew Internet Project asked about 27 different kinds of groups and found [great diversity in group membership and participation](#) using traditional and new technologies. It becomes clear as people are asked about their activities that their use of the internet is having a wide-ranging impact on their engagement with civic, social and religious groups. Asked to assess the overall impact of the internet on group activities:

68% of all Americans (internet users and non-users alike) said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to communicate with members. Some 75% of internet users said that.

²⁷ <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1861/impact-internet-social-media-facebook-twitter-group-activities-participation>

62% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to draw attention to an issue. Some 68% of internet users said that.

60% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to connect with other groups. Some 67% of internet users said that.

59% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to impact society at large. Some 64% of internet users said that.

59% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to organize activities. Some 65% of internet users said that.

52% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to raise money. Some 55% of internet users said that.

51% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to recruit new members. Some 55% of internet users said that.

49% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to impact local communities. Some 52% of internet users said that.

35% of all Americans said the internet has had a major impact on the ability of groups to find people to take leadership roles. Some 35% of internet users said that.

At a personal level, [those who are active in groups](#) say the [internet has had varying influence](#) over their connection to groups:

53% of the online Americans who are active in groups say the internet has had a major impact on their ability to keep up with news and information about their groups; 30% say the internet has had a minor impact on that.

41% of these internet-using active group members say the internet has had a major impact on their ability to organize activities for their groups; 33% say the internet has had a minor impact on that.

35% of these internet-using active group members say the internet has had a major impact on their ability to invite friends to join their groups; 36% say the internet has had a minor impact on that.

33% of these internet-using active group members say the internet has had a major impact on their ability to find groups that match their interests; 28% say the internet has had a minor impact on that.

28% of these internet-using active group members say the internet has had a major impact on their ability to create their own groups; 28% say the internet has had a minor impact on that.

24% of these internet-using active group members say the internet has had a major impact on their ability to volunteer their time to groups; 40% say the internet has had a minor impact on that.

24% of these internet-using active group members say the internet has had a major impact on their ability to contribute money to groups; 34% say the internet has had a minor impact on that.

Many groups work hard to accomplish their goals but do not necessarily succeed in a modest amount of time. In the Pew Internet Project survey, respondents were asked about several kinds of outcomes and whether groups had achieved them in the previous 12 months. In some cases majorities or significant pluralities had accomplished their goals. For those that had achieved those outcomes, we then asked what role the internet played (if any) in achieving those goals. For those that did succeed, the internet's role ranged from significant to modest:

On other internet impacts:

46% of the internet users who are active in groups say the internet has helped them be active in more groups than would otherwise be the case.

24% of those active in groups say they discovered at least some of their groups on the internet. However, three times that number of active group members (75%) did not discover any of the groups they belong to online.

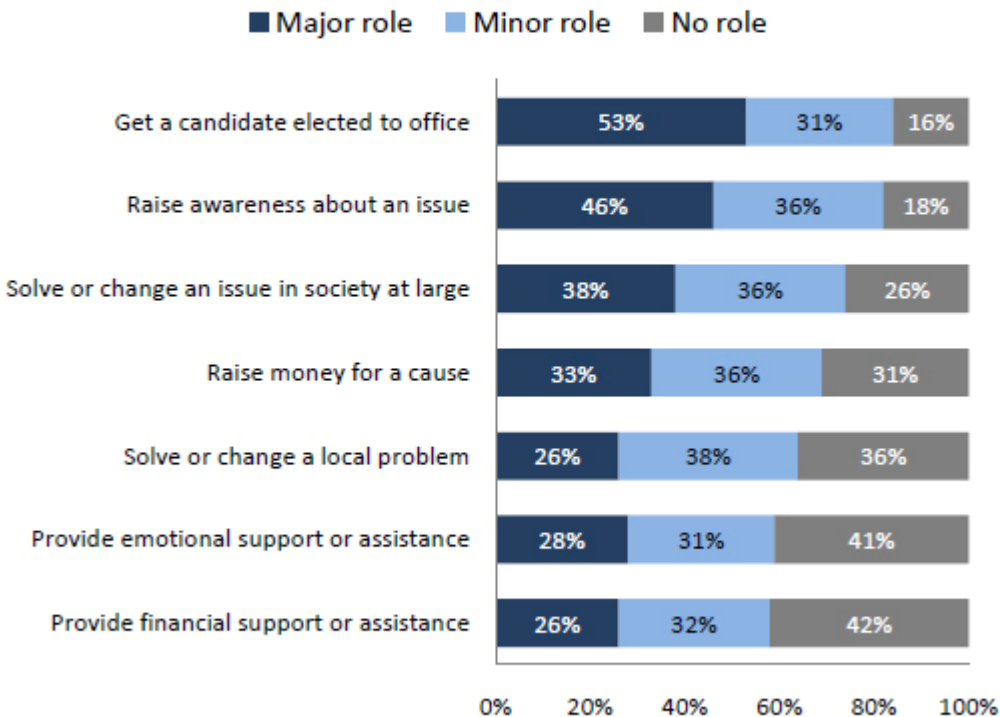
23% of internet users say the technology allows them to spend more time with their groups; 70% of internet users report no impact of the internet on their time spent with groups.

Social media activities are taking hold in group activities

Groups and their members are [using all kinds of digital tools](#) to bind themselves together and some of the most innovative involve social networking sites like Facebook (used by 62% of the internet users in our survey), Twitter (used by 12% of internet users), blogs and texting (used by 74% of the cell phone owners in our survey):

The role of the internet in achieving group goals *among groups whose goals were achieved*

% among those who are members of a group that achieved each goal in the preceding 12 months



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, November 23-December 21, 2010 Social Side of the Internet Survey. N=2,303 adults 18 and older, including 748 reached via cell phone.

48% of those who are active in groups say that those groups have a page on a social networking site like Facebook.

42% of those who are active in groups say those groups use text messaging.

30% of those who are active in groups say those groups have their own blog.

16% of those who are active in groups say the groups communicate with members through Twitter.

Group members themselves are often active in using [social media to connect with the group](#) and evangelize for the group with others. Some 65% of those who are social network site users say they read updates and messages on these sites about the groups in which they are active and 30% say they have posted news about their groups on their SNS page. The numbers are similar when it comes to Twitter users. Fully 63% of the Twitter users who are active in groups say they read updates and posts on Twitter about their groups, and 21% say they post news on Twitter about their groups. Some 45% of the texters who are active in groups say they send and receive texts with other group members and leaders.

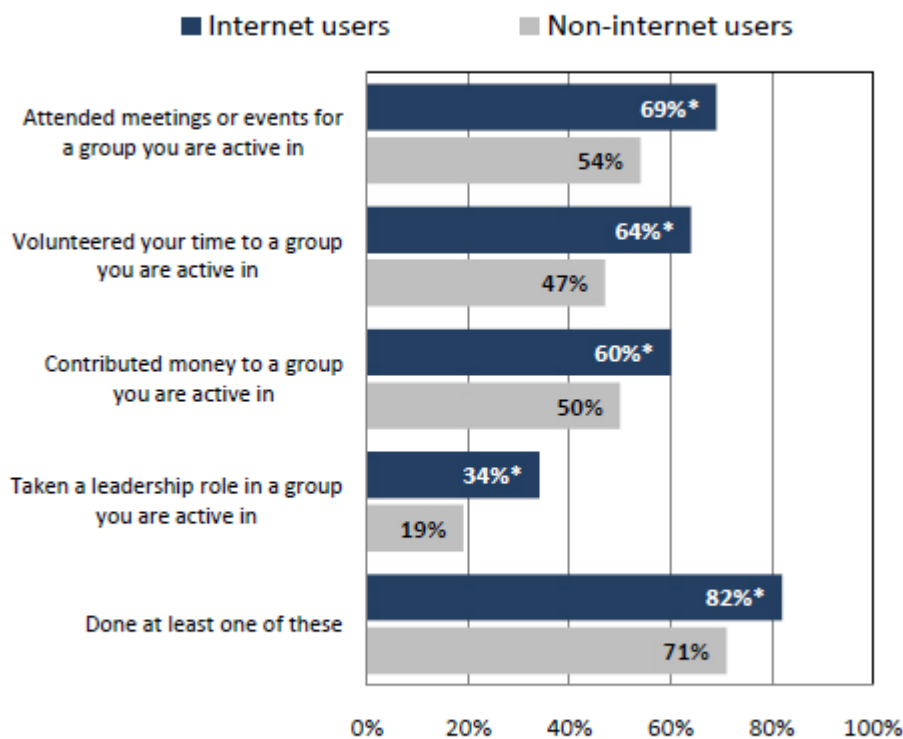
Social network and Twitter users are also more active in some parts of group activity. They post about group activities on their Facebook pages and Tweets, they are more likely than others to invite newbies into a group, more likely than others to be targeted for invitation to groups, more likely to use the internet to discover groups, more likely to say the internet enables them to participate in more groups and more likely to say they spend more time on group activities because of the internet. Social media users are significantly more likely than other group participants who go online for group activities, to say that the internet has a "major impact" on their ability to engage with their groups.

Internet users are more active participants in their groups than other adults, and are more likely to feel pride and a sense of accomplishment

The survey asked group members whether they had done several core activities with their group in the past 30 days and internet users were significantly more likely to have done all of these activities.

Internet users are more active in their groups than non-users

In the past 30 days, have you...



* Indicates a difference that is statistically significant at the 95% level

Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, April 29-May 30, 2010 Tracking Survey (N=2,252 adults 18 and older), including 748 reached via cell phone.

Perhaps reflecting their higher levels of participation, internet users are also more likely than non-users to say that, in the past 12 months, they have felt really proud of a group they are active in because of something it accomplished or a positive difference it made (62% v. 47%) and that

they have accomplished something as part of a group that they could not have accomplished themselves (48% v. 35%). Internet users and non-users are statistically equally likely to say that in the past 12 months they felt disappointed in a group they are active in because it failed to accomplish its goals or lacked purpose. Internet users are, however, slightly more likely to report leaving a group in the past 12 months.
