

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 161

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Introductory Note

This week report consists of 22 surveys. Three of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 19 are national surveys.

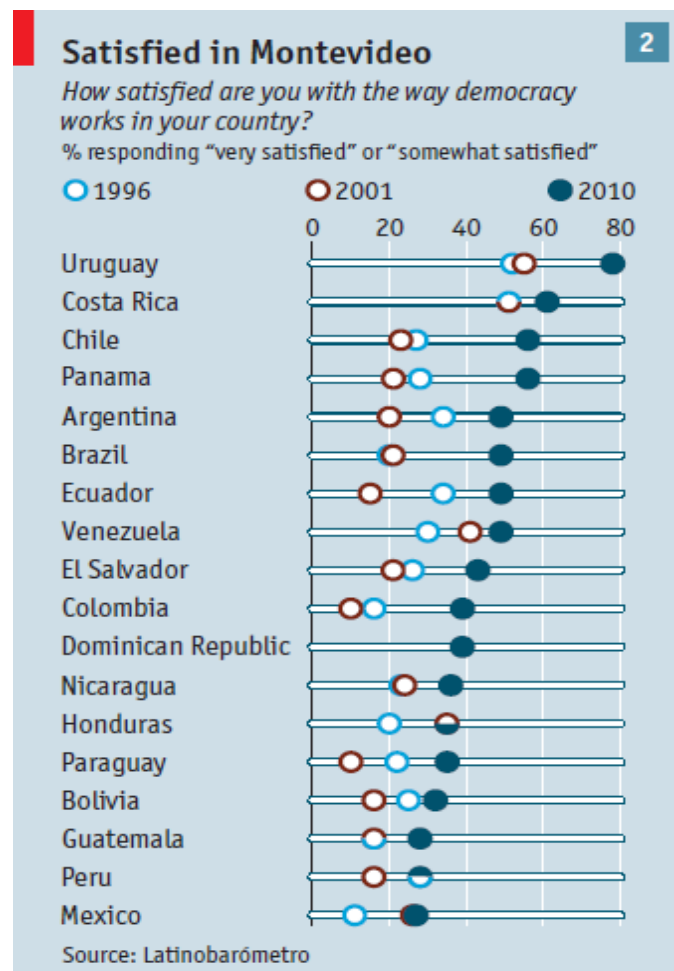
161-23 *Commentary*: **LATIN AMERICA-** **The Democratic Routine**

A good crisis and a robust economic recovery have brought a sunnier mood

December 2010 -Support for democracy in **Latin America** continues to edge up as does backing for private enterprise. For the first time crime is a bigger worry in the region than unemployment. And **Brazil** is seen as more influential than the *United States* across much of the region. These are some of the findings of the latest Latinobarómetro poll taken in 18 countries across the region and published exclusively by *The Economist*. The poll has been taken regularly since 1995, and it tracks changes in attitude across the region.

Two related things stand out in the results of this year's poll, taken in September and early October. The first is the region's fairly sunny mood. The second is the in-creasing stability of attitudes towards *democracy* and its core institutions. Support for democracy has risen noticeably in several countries on the *Pacific* rim of **South America**. For example in Peru, where economic growth has averaged **6%** a year since 2002, support for democracy has risen from a low of **40%** in 2005 to **61%** this year. It also rose in **Mexico**, where the economy has recovered after suffering a big drop in output last year.

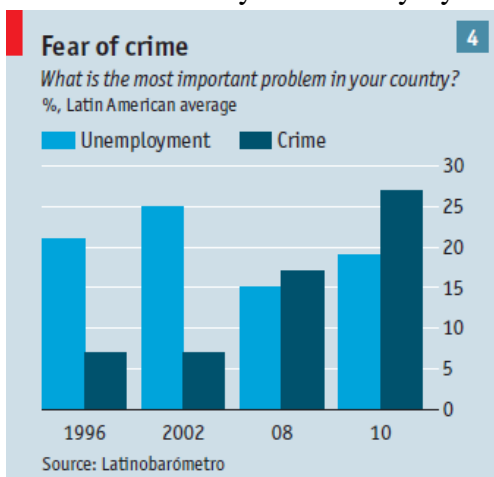
But only around half of respondents in **Mexico** and **Brazil**, the region's two most populous countries, are convinced democrats, which drags down the regional average (see Chart 1; the online version of this article includes a table with results for individual countries.) Some **44%** of respondents across the region pronounced them-selves satisfied with how their country's democracy works in practice, the same figure as last year but a big increase on the **25%** in 2001 (Chart 2). Some **34%** said they had confidence in their country's Congress and **45%** in their government, the same as last year in both cases but up sharply from 2003 (**17%** and **24%** respectively).



A decade ago economic woes in **Latin America** undermined support for democracy. That it has held up during the world financial crisis is probably because many **Latin American** countries suffered only a brief recession and have enjoyed a strong recovery. In addition, a stronger social safety net has helped to shield the poor. (The United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America reported this week that the proportion of Latin Americans living in poverty rose only marginally in 2009 and has fallen again this year, to **32%**.)

But the mood varies widely from country to country (see Chart 3). **Brazil's** strong economic performance and the popularity of its outgoing president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, is reelected in a widely shared sense of progress. That is scarcer in **Mexico** and **Central America**, where the recession was more severe and violent crime has worsened. For the first time most respondents across **Latin America** as a whole cite *crime*, rather than unemployment, as the most important problem facing their country (see chart 4). Some **31%** say that either they or a close relative have been a victim of crime over the past year, but that is down from **38%** last year and is the lowest figure since 1995.

A more robust economic performance is reflected in rising support for private enterprise and the market economy: some **71%** of respondents across the region say that private enterprise is indispensable for development, up from **56%** in 2007. Some **58%** agree that the market economy is the only system that will make their country developed, up from **47%** last year. Interestingly, **62%** of respondents in **Venezuela** hold that view (and **80%** there back private enterprise) even though their left-wing president, Hugo Chávez, is expropriating many private companies.



Brazil is the country which exercises most leadership in the region, mentioned by **19%** of respondents (up from **18%** last year), followed by the *United States* (**9%**, unchanged from last year) and **Venezuela** (**9%**, down from **11%** last year). But the *United States* is seen as the most influential country by respondents in **Mexico** and much of **Central America**, while **Venezuela** enjoys that distinction in **Ecuador**, the **Dominican Republic** and **Nicaragua**.

SOURCE: http://www.latinobarometro.org/docs/ECONOMIST_4_Diciembre_2010.pdf

SUMMARY OF POLLS

WEST ASIA

Pakistanis Associate Democracy With Equality, Elections and Parliament

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, most Pakistanis (22%) say that equality of citizens comes to their mind when they hear word 'democracy', followed by elections and national assembly sessions (21% each). (Gallup Pakistan)

February 28, 2011

WEST EUROPE

British economic pessimism is world class

One in seven (15%) Britons rate the economy as good and the same number (13%) are optimistic about the next six months piling on the bad economic news in a week where it was announced that inflation reached 4% - double the government's target - and unemployment rose by 44,000 to almost 2.5 million. These announcements are likely to dent the optimism of the British public yet further. (Ipsos Mori)

March 01, 2011

Two Thirds Of Britons Unaware Of New Product Placement On Uk TV

According to the representative sample of 2,000 British adults, nearly two thirds (61%) are unaware that product placement will now be allowed. Just over half of respondents (54%) feel comfortable with product placement while one third (32%) are actively uncomfortable with it. (Vision critical)

February 28, 2011

Euro introduction in Estonia Ex-Post Citizen Survey

The vast majority (87%) thought that the changeover happened smoothly and efficiently, while only 8% thought the contrary. About 4 out of 10 respondents thought the changeover had been very smooth and efficient (41%). (Gallup Hungary)

February 2011

NORTH AMERICA

Gingrich Support for 2012 Greater Among Fox News Viewers

Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich – former employee of Fox News may have benefited from his exposure on Fox News. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 13% of regular Fox News viewers say they are most likely to support Gingrich for the 2012 presidential nomination, compared with 8% of occasional viewers and 6% of non-viewers. (Gallup USA)

March 3, 2011

Public Employee Unions

Even though many Americans think public employees have advantages those in the private sector do not, most still support the right of those public employees to belong to unions. According to the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, public employees are seen as getting a better deal than workers in the private sector. (Yougov)

March 03, 2011

Watching Libya

Americans are paying attention to the crisis in Libya - all but 16 say they have heard about the protests and fighting there - but according to the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, most really don't want the United States involved in any way that could be dangerous for Americans. (Yougov)

March 03, 2011

Can The Public Choose?

Americans want their leaders to represent them. By better than two to one, they want their representatives to follow the wishes of their constituents, even when constituent desires conflict with a representative's personal principles. (Yougov)

March 03, 2011

Worried about Egypt?

One in three Americans say the emotion they feel most when thinking about the protests in Egypt is worry, according to the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, with Republicans and those over 65 the most worried about the outcome. (Yougov)

March 02, 2011

A Government Shutdown?

More than two in three Americans - and even more Republicans - have heard about a possible shutdown of the federal government. And in the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, half of those aware of the possibility of a shutdown expect it will happen. (Yougov)

March 03, 2011

Same-Sex Marriage

Americans may not be ready to legalize same-sex marriages, but they are ready for civil unions between people of the same sex. In the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, 38 support giving homosexuals the right to marry, but when those who would favor civil unions are included, support rises to 62. (Yougov)

March 03, 2011

Shifting Political Winds

The public remains deeply frustrated with the federal government, but fewer Americans say they are angry at government than did so last fall. Overall, the percentage saying they are angry with the federal government has fallen from 23% last September to 14% today, with much of the decline coming among Republicans and Tea Party supporters. (Pew Research Center)

March 3, 2011

Wisconsin Unions Favored Over Walker in Showdown

By a modest margin, more say they back Wisconsin's public employee unions rather than the state's governor in their continuing dispute over collective bargaining rights. (Pew Research Center)

February 28, 2011

Americans Maintain Broad Support for Israel

Americans' views toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict held fairly steady over the past year, with a near record-high 63% continuing to say their sympathies lie more with the Israelis. Seventeen percent sympathize more with the Palestinians. (Gallup USA)

February 28, 2011

Voters Remain Pessimistic about Economy and Future

Less than 30% of voters with children believe their offspring will have a better life than them, and 25% do not feel secure in their jobs, a new Zogby Interactive Survey finds. (Zgoby Interactive)

March 01, 2011

Disconnect Evident Between Voters and House

A Zogby Interactive poll of likely voters which tested nine budget proposals voted on by the House of Representatives finds just one of four that passed has majority approval among respondents, while all five that were voted down by the House are approved by more than 50% of voters. (Zogby Interactive)

February 28, 2011

How the Public Perceives Community Information Systems

Those who think local government does well in sharing information are also more likely to be satisfied with other parts of civic life. However broadband users are sometimes less satisfied than others with community life. That raises the possibility that upgrades in a local information system might produce more critical, activist citizens. (Monitor Institute U.S)

March 1, 2011

Public Proposes Federal Budget Dramatically Different Than House or White House

An innovative study has found that when a representative sample of the American public was presented the federal budget, they proposed changes far different from those the Obama administration or the Republican-led House have proposed. (worldpublicopinion.org)

March 3, 2011

LATIN AMERICA

The Democratic Routine (Multi-country survey)

Support for democracy in Latin America continues to edge up as does backing for private enterprise. For the first time crime is a bigger worry in the region than unemployment. And Brazil is seen as more influential than the United States across much of the region. (Latinobarometer)

December 2010

AUSTRALASIA

New Zealand Government Confidence Rating down After Christchurch Earthquake

There has been more than ten percentage point decline in the New Zealandes perceptions that their country is going in the right direction. (Roy Morgan)

March 04, 2011

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

The Economic Pulse of the World

The global average across all three assessments of national, local and the future of the economy has stood still from last month to this despite individual country movements. Only four in ten global citizens describe economic conditions in their country as 'good'. (Ipsos Global)

March 01, 2011

CYBER WORLD

Three in four British adults are online

Recently published data from the National Readership Survey (NRS Jan-Dec 2010) tell us that an important milestone in the history of the internet has been reached. For the first time, three quarters of the adult 15+ population of Great Britain have accessed the internet in the past 12 months. (Ipsos Mori)

March 02, 2011

WEST ASIA

161-1. Pakistanis Associate Democracy With Equality, Elections and Parliament

What Is Democracy? Most Pakistanis Associate 'Democracy' With Equality Of Citizens (22%), Followed By The Word 'Elections' (21%) And Parliament (21%):

GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN

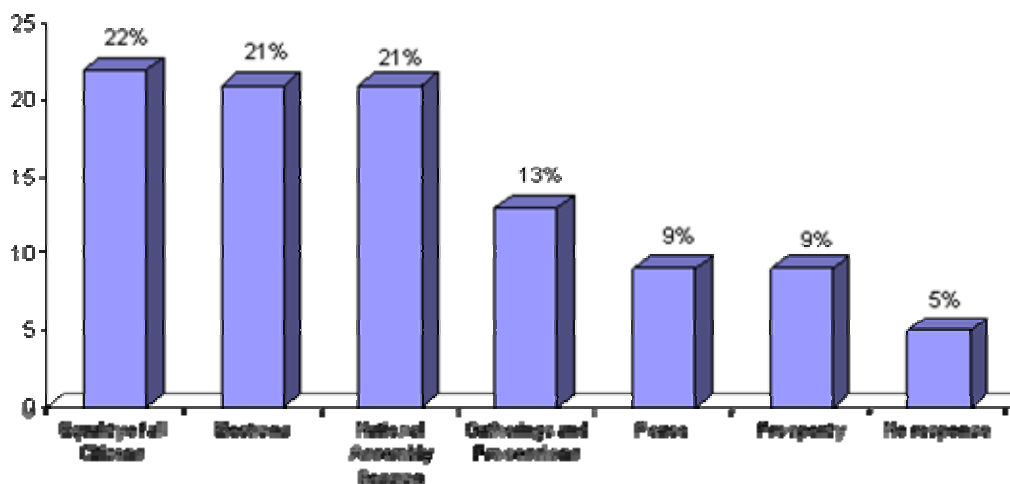
Islamabad, February 28, 2011

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, most Pakistanis (22%) say that equality of citizens comes to their mind when they hear word 'democracy', followed by elections and national assembly sessions (21% each).

In a survey, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked the following question: "What comes to your mind when you hear the word 'democracy'?" Twenty two percent (22%) said that equality of citizens come to their mind when they hear this word followed by 21% who say elections and National Assembly sessions, each. 13% claimed to associate gatherings and processions with the word 'democracy', 9% peace and 9% prosperity. 5% gave no response.

A detailed analysis of the data revealed that comparatively more urbanites (27%) believed that 'democracy' meant equality of citizens as compared to their rural counterparts (18%).

"What comes to your mind when you hear the word 'democracy'?"



*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 2774 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during February 2011. Error margin is estimated to be approximately + 2-3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

Source: <http://www.gallup.com.pk/Polls/28-02-11.pdf>

WEST EUROPE

161-2. British Economic Pessimism Is World Class

Britons are among the most negative about the economy in the world according to the latest Economic Global Pulse from Ipsos' Global @advisor, online research conducted in 24 countries.

One in seven (15%) Britons rate the economy as good and the same number (13%) are optimistic about the next six months piling on the bad economic news in a week where it was announced that inflation reached 4% - double the government's target - and unemployment rose by 44,000 to almost 2.5 million. These announcements are likely to dent the optimism of the British public yet further.

Bobby Duffy, Managing Director at Ipsos MORI, said:

“We in Britain are not the gloomiest but we're certainly worried about the economic situation by global standards. With the cuts beginning to bite and fuel prices reaching record highs the public are wary of the next six months as well.”

The general economic mood has greatly improved in many countries since the low point of 2008. Citizens of Sweden, Germany, China Australia and Canada are far happier now with the current state of their economy than they were two years ago. However, that large rise has not been seen among Britons where just eight per cent described the economy as good in April 2009 and 13% do so now. This places Great Britain around the same level as France and Italy in rating the economy as good (both 11%) but higher than Japan, Spain and Hungary (6%, 4% and 3% respectively).

However, economic optimism for the next six months is low among European and G8 countries. Of the G8 countries, Canada and Germany are the most positive about the future – although only one in three (31% and 30% respectively) expect the economy to improve in the next six months. The French are the most pessimistic with just five per cent expecting improvements. Just over one in seven (13%) Britons are optimistic about the future of the economy.

Technical Note

These are the findings of the Global @dvisor Wave 17 (G@17), an Ipsos survey conducted between January 14 and January 24, 2011.

The survey instrument is conducted monthly in 24 countries around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system. The countries reporting herein are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America.

For the results of the survey presented herein, an international sample of 18,829 adults aged 18-64 in the US and Canada, and age 16-64 in all other countries, were interviewed. Approximately 1000+ individuals participated on a country by country basis via the Ipsos Online Panel with the exception of Argentina, Belgium, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden and Turkey, where each have a sample approximately 500+.

Weighting was employed to balance demographics and ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to the most recent country Census data available and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.1 percentage points for a sample of 1,000 and an estimated margin of error of +/- 4.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20 per country of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in that country had been polled.

Source:<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2729/Ipsos-Global-dvisor-Wave-17.aspx>

161-3. Two Thirds Of Britons Unaware Of New Product Placement On Uk Tv

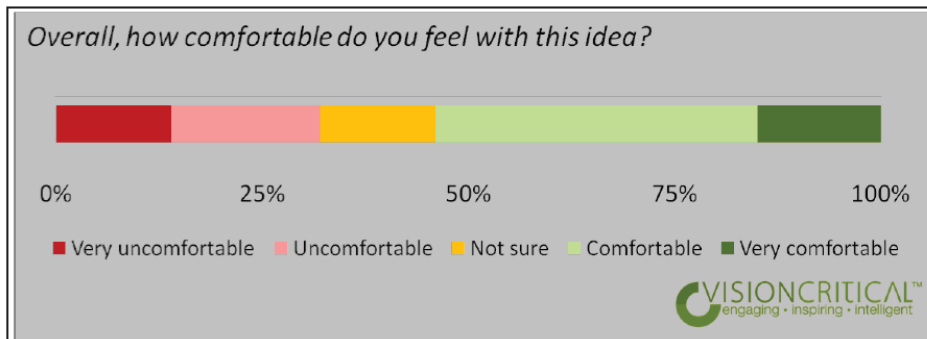
PUBLISHED ON FEB 28, 2011

A new poll by global research and technology firm Vision Critical® shows that Britons are largely unaware that paid-for product placement will be allowed on UK commercial TV for the first time beginning this March.

According to the representative sample of 2,000 British adults, nearly two thirds (61%) are unaware that product placement will now be allowed. Just over half of respondents (54%) feel comfortable with product placement while one third (32%) are actively uncomfortable with it.

Viewers are split as to whether product placement will improve or reduce the quality of television programming. One third (31%) of respondents agree that product placement will improve TV programme quality, as it will increase income for TV channels. 38 per cent disagree, believing that it will reduce programme quality.

Nearly one quarter (23%) even believe the introduction of product placement would reduce the amount of television they watch. Almost half of respondents (48%) fear it will overwhelm them with advertising.



“There’s a real lack of awareness that commercial TV will soon be carrying paid-for promotion of brands,” said Mike Stevens, Head of Research in Vision Critical’s London office. “It’s to be expected that people feel uncomfortable at first. What’s maybe surprising is that a third of people think this could actually improve programming quality by creating a new income stream for broadcasters; it suggests viewers appreciate the trade-offs involved in commercial TV.”

Methodology: On February 25, 2011, Vision Critical conducted an online survey among 2,000 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panellists (www.springboarduk.com). The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current age, gender, region data and newspaper readership data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Source: <http://www.visioncritical.com/newsroom/two-thirds-of-britons-unaware-of-new-product-placement-on-uk-tv/>

161-4. Euro introduction in Estonia Ex-Post Citizen Survey

February 2011

As of January 1, 2011, Estonia joined the euro area. The present survey on Estonian citizens’ attitudes toward the new currency and the changeover process was conducted

immediately after the euro's introduction. It therefore captures their immediate reactions on the topic.

The survey covers the following themes:

- Estonians' personal experiences
 - o with using euro banknotes and coins; with converting krooni to euros; with understanding of values in euros
 - o regarding the dual display of prices: how useful did respondents find this tool; opinions on whether or not the system was implemented correctly
 - o with euro coin starter kits
 - General perception of the success of the changeover;
 - Awareness of the security features of euro banknotes;
 - Concerns that price conversions and price rounding would be performed incorrectly;
 - Concerns about an increase in inflation due to the changeover to the euro;
 - The preferred sources and channels of information (regarding the changeover);
 - Citizens' feelings about being informed about the euro;
 - Levels of satisfaction with the information received from national authorities;
 - The usefulness of euro spots, ads and the euro calculator.

The results of the current survey are compared to the last four countries that became members of the euro area: Slovakia in 2009, Malta and Cyprus in January 2008, and Slovenia in January 2007. In each of those countries, at the time of the changeover the Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission had conducted a Flash Eurobarometer survey in order to measure citizens' perceptions regarding the new currency and its implementation. (Flash EB 259 in Slovakia, Flash EB 222 in Cyprus, Flash EB 223 in Malta and Flash EB 205 in Slovenia). As the questionnaires were essentially the same and the data collection periods similar in all four surveys, direct comparisons between the results could be made.

In addition, the report presents results broken down by various socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents:

Sex (male; female)

Age (15-24; 25-39; 40-54; 55 +)

Subjective urbanisation (living in an urban area; in the rest of the country)

Occupation (self-employed; employee; manual worker; not working)

In Estonia 1005 interviews were conducted between the 16th and 20th of January 2011. In order to compensate for the low coverage of the landline telephone samples, a mobile and a face-to-face subsample was used as well. (For previous studies, fieldwork in Slovakia was completed between the 16th and 20th of January, 2009, in Malta and Cyprus it took place between February 2 and February 6, 2008 and in Slovenia between the 29th of January and the 3rd of February, 2007. In each country, approximately 1,000 interviews were conducted.) The national samples were representative of the population aged 15 and over. Smaller discrepancies stemming from sampling procedure were corrected by a weighting procedure called *raking*. The sample was weighted for age, sex, region and economic activity to accurately reflect the parameters of the universe.

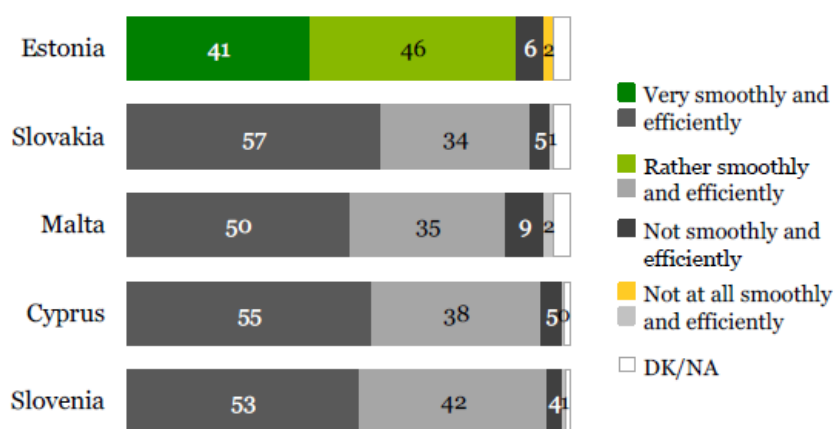
Main Findings

Success of Changeover

The vast majority (87%) thought that the changeover happened smoothly and efficiently, while only 8% thought the contrary. About 4 out of 10 respondents thought the changeover had been *very* smooth and efficient (41%).

Only a few respondents in Estonia encountered problems when exchanging kroon cash into euros or when withdrawing the new currency from banks in the first week of January 2011 (4%), while the large majority did not (95%).

The success of the changeover



Q12. Overall, did the changeover to the euro in your view happen smoothly and efficiently, or not?
%, Base: all respondents

Familiarity with the euro

While about three-quarters (74%) said that it was easy to distinguish and manipulate euro banknotes, less than half (48%) said the same about coins – these shares were lower than those measured in Slovakia, Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia shortly after they switched to the euro. However, in these countries too, respondents usually had more difficulty familiarising themselves with the coins than the banknotes of the new currency.

Respondents still often referred to the kroon when calculating prices while shopping. The survey found that, for both special and everyday purchases, an unprecedentedly high proportion of respondents indicated that they still calculated prices in kroon (54% and 48%, respectively). Around 3 in 10 respondents had already mentally switched from krooni to euros when doing everyday purchases (28%) and 19% said they would most often calculate in euros when making special purchases. About 1 in 5 were just as likely to calculate in krooni as in euros when doing any kind of shopping.

About 6 out of 10 Estonian respondents found it easy to convert from kroon to euro (62%), while nearly 3 in 10 thought that this was difficult (29%). Such level of difficulty has not yet been recorded at earlier post-2002 changeovers. Only 20% thought that conversion was *very* easy.

The usefulness of the dual display of prices was uncontested (88% “useful”). Moreover, more than 8 in 10 (83%) respondents said that the dual displays were mostly or always correctly implemented.

Asked which of the euro’s security features they could cite spontaneously, a significant proportion of Estonian respondents – 3 in 10 (31%) – was unable to name any. Survey participants were most familiar with the watermark and the security thread, which were cited by about 4 in 10 (42%) Estonians.

Concerns about the changeover

Almost 6 in 10 (59%) Estonian respondents said that price conversions to euros had not been fair (at least sometimes). The corresponding share for price roundings was 62%.

A majority (55%) of Estonians thought that the euro will increase inflation in their country. In contrast, about 2 in 10 (21%) believed that joining the euro area would help Estonia maintain price stability. A share of 7% expected the adoption of the euro to have no impact on inflation.

Information on the euro

A vast majority (87%) felt informed about the new currency, and a quarter described themselves as *very* well informed. Men and the self-employed were more likely to feel very well informed than women or than other occupational groups.

Asked about the source(s) from which they most frequently obtained their information about the euro, Estonian respondents most often mentioned the media (91%). Commercial banks were named by approximately 1 in 5 (18%) respondents, followed by the government, national or regional authorities (15%) and the National Central Bank (12%).

When Estonians were asked which information channel they considered to be the most efficient, half of them mentioned the television. The Internet and the national information website on the euro (<http://euro.eesti.ee>) came in second place (14%). The radio, print media and publications or brochures were each named by approximately 1 in 10 survey participants (9%-11%).

When asked which euro-related topics they would like to have more information on, a significant number of Estonian respondents couldn't identify any further information needs (30%). The two most frequently mentioned topics on which Estonians would like to receive more information were the social, economic or political implications of the euro and fair rounding.

Euro mini-kits and the euro calculator

Compared with other post-2002 changeovers, Estonians were the least likely to buy euro coin mini-kits. Almost three quarters (73%) of Estonian respondents said they had not bought a euro mini-kit before the introduction of the new currency on 1 January 2011, and relatively many who bought such kits did not actually open it to use the coins (only 43% used these coins).

As there was one euro calculator available for each household, nearly all Estonians said they had received one (90%). Over three-quarters found the tool to be useful (78%).

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

NORTH AMERICA

161-5. Gingrich Support for 2012 Greater Among Fox News Viewers

Americans overall generally more negative than positive toward Gingrich

March 3, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich -- who was suspended from his paid duties at Fox News Channel on Wednesday given the expectation that he will run for president, and who moved closer to doing so Thursday by setting up a website to collect donations to his possible campaign -- may have benefited from his exposure on Fox News. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 13% of regular Fox News viewers say they are most likely to support Gingrich for the 2012 presidential nomination, compared with 8% of occasional viewers and 6% of non-viewers. Gingrich shows greater gains among regular Fox News viewers than any other potential 2012 Republican candidate, including some other Fox News commentators.

Choice for Republican Presidential Nomination, by Fox News Viewership

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	Regular viewers	Occasional viewers	Non-viewers
	%	%	%
Mike Huckabee	18	16	19
Mitt Romney	17	16	16
Sarah Palin	13	20	16
Newt Gingrich	13	8	6
Ron Paul	4	7	6
Michele Bachmann	4	4	3
Tim Pawlenty	3	4	1
Haley Barbour	4	2	2
Mitch Daniels	3	2	3
Rick Santorum	3	2	2
Jon Huntsman	1	2	1
Gary Johnson	1	1	<0.5
Other	6	7	4
No preference	10	10	23

Gallup, Feb. 18-20, 2011

Note: Regular viewers are those who say they watch Fox News Channel 4-5 nights a week; occasional viewers say they watch 1-3 nights a week.

GALLUP'

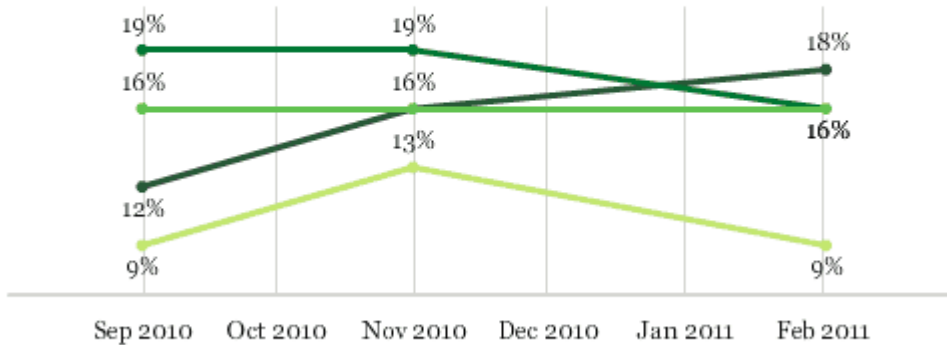
These results are based on a Feb. 18-20 Gallup poll, and include interviews with more than 1,300 Republicans and 550 who report watching Fox News four or five nights a week.

Among all Republicans, over the last six months, Gingrich generally ranks fourth when they are asked to name which of a dozen potential candidates they are most likely to support for president. He trails Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, and Mitt Romney.

Trend in Republicans' 2012 Presidential Nomination Preferences

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

■ Mike Huckabee ■ Mitt Romney ■ Sarah Palin ■ Newt Gingrich



GALLUP

Fox News suspended the contracts of Gingrich and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum for 60 days because the network believes their expected presidential candidacies create a conflict of interest. Santorum, whose overall support for the GOP nomination has been running in the low single digits, receives no significant increase among regular Fox News viewers. He gets 3% of the vote among this group, as opposed to 2% among Republicans who occasionally or never watch Fox News.

Three other possible Republican candidates remain on the Fox News payroll: Sarah Palin, Mike Huckabee, and John Bolton. Fox declined to suspend any of these candidates because it does not believe their candidacies are imminent, but says it would take the same action against them if they appear likely to run.

Huckabee is first or second as Republicans' top choice for the nomination, regardless of their viewership of Fox News. Palin actually does slightly less well among regular Fox News viewers than among those who occasionally or never watch. Bolton, a much less prominent figure than Huckabee or Palin, was not included in the Gallup list, but his name was volunteered by one Republican in the poll.

Although five possible Republican presidential candidates are on the Fox payroll, not all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are heavy viewers of the news channel. About a third watch five nights a week and a third do not watch any nights, with the remainder watching between one and four nights. This means the majority of Republicans have at least some exposure to Fox News programming, on average. For purposes of this analysis, those who watch four or five nights a week (38% of Republicans) are considered "regular viewers."

Next, we have a question about your television viewing habits at night. In a typical week, Monday through Friday, how many nights out of five, if any, do you watch the Fox News Channel?

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	%
Five nights	32
Four	6
Three	9
Two	8
One	11
No nights	33
No opinion	1

Gallup, Feb. 18-20, 2011

GALLUP

Implications

Given that viewership of the channel is common among Republicans, Fox News provides a unique opportunity for possible Republican candidates to raise their profile and increase their potential support. There have been discussions about how ethical it is to have potential candidates on its payroll, and the network seemed to be sensitive to those concerns by suspending Gingrich and Santorum Wednesday.

Of the five potential candidates with Fox News ties, Gingrich receives the biggest increase in support among the most loyal Fox viewers compared with less frequent viewers. Still, he trails Romney and Huckabee in current 2012 nomination support among regular Fox viewers, and has consistently ranked fourth among all Republicans. As Gallup continues to track Republican nomination preferences in the coming months, it will provide evidence as to the impact Gingrich's removal from Fox airwaves will have on his support.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 18-20, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,326 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 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 Republicans, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

For results based on the total sample of 550 Republicans who are regular Fox News viewers (watch evening shows on the network four or five nights a week) one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 5 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146474/Gingrich-Support-2012-Greater-Among-Fox-News-Viewers.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

161-6. Public Employee Unions

Thu March 3, 3:42 p.m. PST by [YouGov Staff](#) in *Economist Poll*

Even though many Americans think public employees have advantages those in the private sector do not, most still support the right of those public employees to belong to unions. According to the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, public employees are seen as getting a better deal than workers in the private sector.

Nearly half the public sees public employees as having more job security, and nearly a third or more say they get better pension benefits, are paid more, and put less effort into their work than those in the private sector. Many of those who live in households with a public employee - or are a public employee themselves - see some advantages, especially when it comes to job security. But they are much less likely to think public sector employees earn more.

	Total	Public employee	
		Yes, Self or other in Household	No
<i>More</i>	30%	16%	32%
<i>About the same</i>	20%	29%	18%
<i>Less</i>	25%	52%	20%
<i>Not sure</i>	26%	3%	30%

Do you think that public sector employees get paid more or less than private sector employees with similar qualifications?

	Total	Public employee	
		Yes, Self or other in Household	No
<i>More</i>	10%	21%	8%
<i>About the same</i>	31%	48%	29%
<i>Less</i>	34%	25%	35%
<i>Not sure</i>	25%	6%	28%

On average, do you think that public sector employees devote more or less effort to their jobs than private sector employees?

	Public employee		
	Total	Yes, other in Household	Self or No
<i>Too high</i>	35%	25%	37%
<i>About right</i>	23%	37%	20%
<i>Too low</i>	10%	21%	8%
<i>Not sure</i>	32%	17%	35%

Are the pension benefits of public sector employees too high or too low?

	Public employee		
	Total	Yes, other in Household	Self or No
<i>Better</i>	46%	52%	45%
<i>About the same</i>	20%	28%	19%
<i>Worse</i>	8%	13%	7%
<i>Not sure</i>	25%	7%	29%

Do public sector employees have better or worse job security than private sector employees?

There are large partisan differences on these questions, too.

Overall, though, half or more of Americans think most public employees should be allowed to join unions. Clerical workers get less support on this than other workers, but more than half the country approve of firefighters, teachers, nurses, sanitation workers and police joining unions.

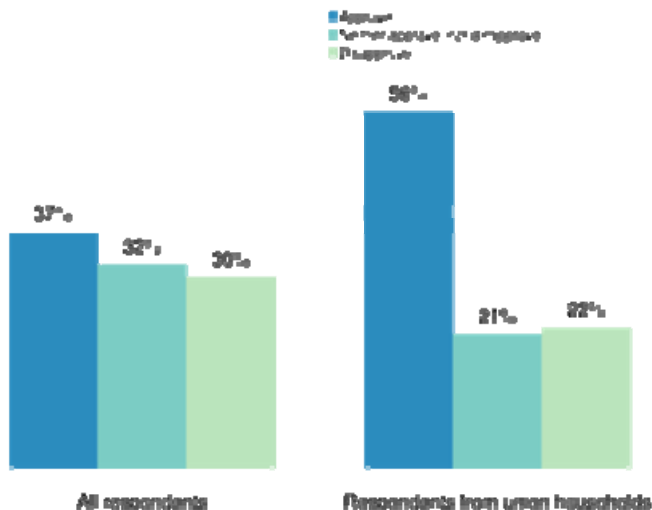
	Yes	No	Not sure
<i>Teachers</i>	56%	28%	16%
<i>Police</i>	56%	27%	17%
<i>Firefighters</i>	57%	25%	18%
<i>Clerical workers</i>	49%	28%	22%
<i>Sanitation workers</i>	58%	25%	17%
<i>Nurses</i>	56%	27%	17%

Should the following type of public sector employees be allowed to join unions?

However, just over a third of Republicans agree.

This poll does not show a lot of love for unions in general. Americans narrowly approve of labor unions. Even in union households, there are some negative feelings. Nearly a quarter of those who live in union households disapprove of labor unions.

Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?



YouGov
today.yougov.com

Source: <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/03/03/public-employee-unions/>

161-7. Watching Libya

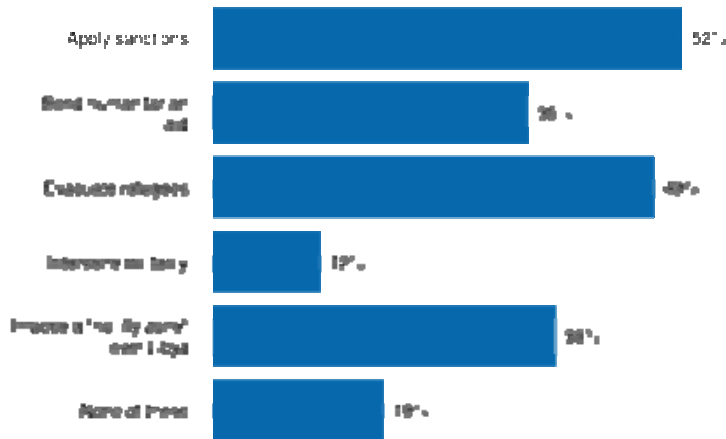
Thu March 3, 3:20 p.m. PST by YouGov Staff in Economist Poll

Americans are paying attention to the crisis in Libya - all but 16 say they have heard about the protests and fighting there - but according to the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, most really don't want the United States involved in any way that could be dangerous for Americans.

Asked what the international community should do now in Libya, only 12 favor military intervention there. More - 19 - would do nothing at all. Far more would support applying sanctions against Libya (something already approved by the United National Security Council), providing assistance in evacuating refugees (which presumably could include some Americans), enforcing a No Fly zone there and providing humanitarian aid.

How should the international community respond to events in Libya? Please check all options that you support.

Asked if respondents would support various options in Libya



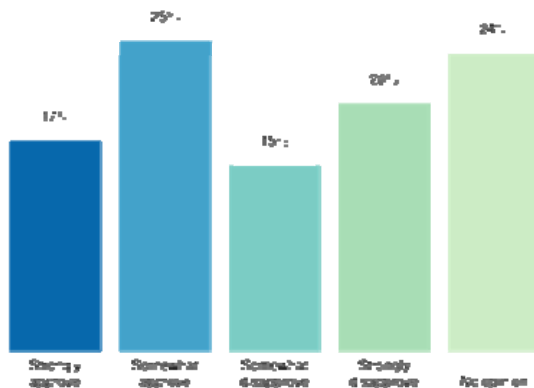
Although Republicans and Democrats often disagree, there is little difference between them on this question. However, Democrats are more willing than Republicans to provide humanitarian aid to Libyans.

Perhaps one problem is that most Americans believe the Libyan people don't like them. In fact, majorities think that the people in most Middle East countries have unfavorable views of the United States. In addition, in the case of Libya, six in ten say that country is either unfriendly to the United States, or an enemy.

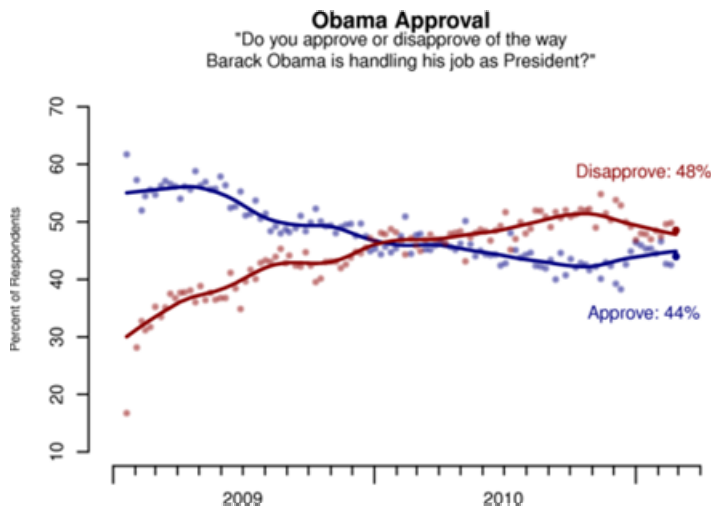
President Obama's actions so far meet with general approval from Americans. By 42 to 35, Americans approve of the President's response to the protests in Libya.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the protests in Libya?

Asked if respondents would approve or disapprove of Obama's response to Libya



Overall, 44 of Americans approve of the way President Obama is handling his job. 48 disapprove. There hasn't been much change in recent weeks.

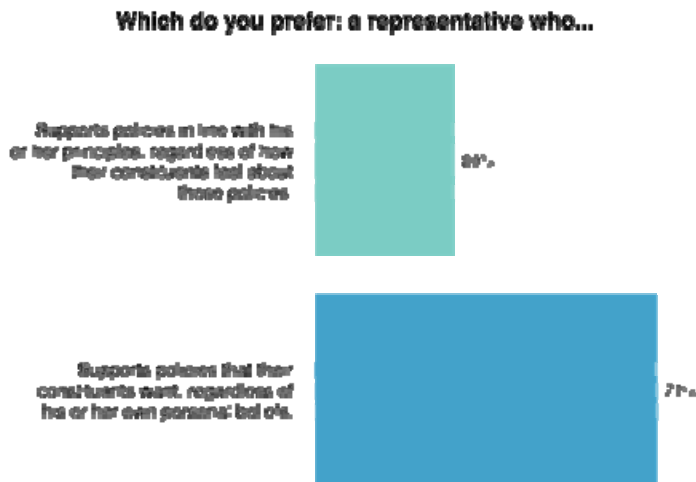


Source: <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/03/03/watching-libya/>

161-8. Can The Public Choose?

Thu March 3, 10:28 a.m. PST by YouGov Staff in *Economist Poll*

Americans want their leaders to represent them. By better than two to one, they want their representatives to follow the wishes of their constituents, even when constituent desires conflict with a representative's personal principles.



But can Americans judge their candidates? Maybe not. Asked in the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll whether voters can make competent vote choices when it comes to candidates, 51 say "no." Independent voters are particularly cynical about their fellow voters: by 64 to 29 - more than two to one - they say voters are not capable of making those choices.

But when it comes to their capacity to choose policies, as opposed to candidates, Americans give the public a little more credit. 42 say voters are able to make competent choices when it comes to policies, 43 disagree. Republicans are the most hopeful about this.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
<i>Certainly</i>				
yes	11%	12%	14%	10%
<i>Probably</i>				
yes	25%	30%	32%	19%
<i>Probably</i>				
not	38%	37%	33%	47%
<i>Certainly</i>				
not	13%	11%	14%	17%
<i>Not sure</i>	12%	11%	7%	7%

Do you think that voters are generally able to evaluate candidates and make competent vote choices?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
<i>Certainly</i>				
yes	13%	10%	21%	11%
<i>Probably</i>				
yes	29%	32%	35%	28%
<i>Probably</i>				
not	34%	36%	29%	41%
<i>Certainly</i>				
not	9%	10%	8%	10%
<i>Not sure</i>	14%	12%	7%	10%

Do you think that voters are generally able to evaluate policies and make competent vote choices?

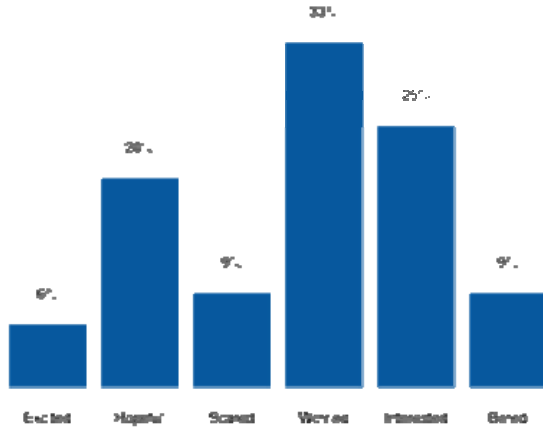
Source: <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/03/03/can-public-choose/>

161-9. Worried about Egypt?

Wed March 2, 2:24 p.m. PST by YouGov Staff in Economist Poll

One in three Americans say the emotion they feel most when thinking about the protests in Egypt is worry, according to the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, with Republicans and those over 65 the most worried about the outcome. But the emotions that closely follow worry are those of interest and hopefulness. 25 say they are interested, 20 hopeful. Just 9 say their strongest feeling is that of being scared (the same percentage that says they are "bored").

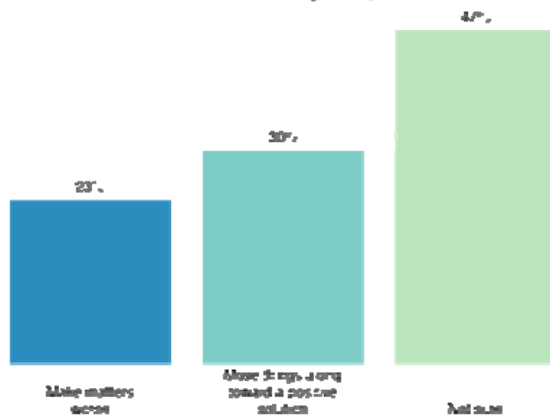
Which ONE of the following best describes your feelings about recent events in Egypt?



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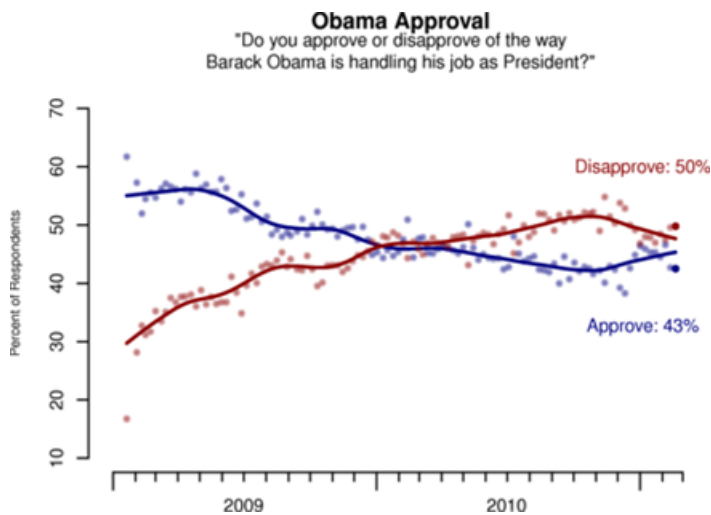
Americans give the Obama Administration generally positive ratings for its performance during the last few weeks of protests in Egypt. Although nearly half say they don't know how to evaluate the President's performance, by a margin of 30 to 23, Americans say his actions generally made things in Egypt move in a positive direction. This assessment of the President, like almost all assessments of his performance, is party-driven, with Republicans negative, and Democrats positive.

After 18 days of protests, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has stepped down. Generally speaking, have President Obama's statements and actions during this period tended to...



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But the President's overall approval rating continues to languish. Just 43 in the week's poll approve of the way he is handling his job overall, while 50 disapprove.



As protests in the Middle East continue, Americans want the Administration to be proactive --- at least verbally. By a margin of 53 to 26, those aware of the current protests in Bahrain want the Administration publicly to support the pro-democracy protests there. And that sentiment crosses party lines: Republicans and Democrats would like to see more public support.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
<i>Definitely yes</i>	19%	25%	19%	14%
<i>Probably yes</i>	34%	31%	35%	35%
<i>Probably no</i>	19%	12%	20%	24%
<i>Definitely no</i>	7%	4%	8%	8%
<i>Not sure</i>	22%	28%	19%	19%

Asked of half of all respondents who have heard about protests in Bahrain

Should the Obama Administration publicly support the pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain?

Source: <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/03/02/worried-about-egypt/>

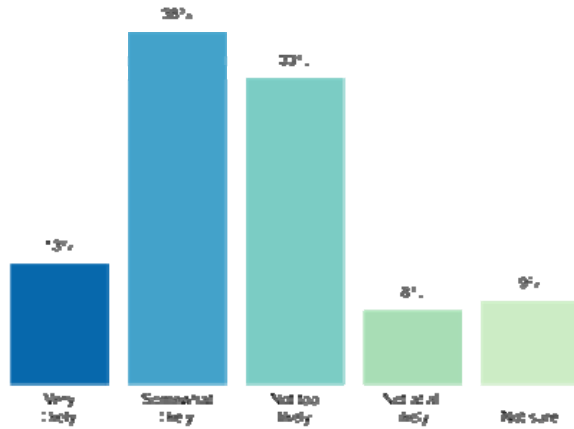
161-10. A Government Shutdown?

Thu March 3, 4:58 p.m. PST by [YouGov Staff](#) in *Economist Poll*

More than two in three Americans - and even more Republicans - have heard about a possible shutdown of the federal government. And in the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, half of those aware of the possibility of a shutdown expect it will happen.

How likely is it that a budget agreement will not be reached, resulting in a shutdown of the federal government?

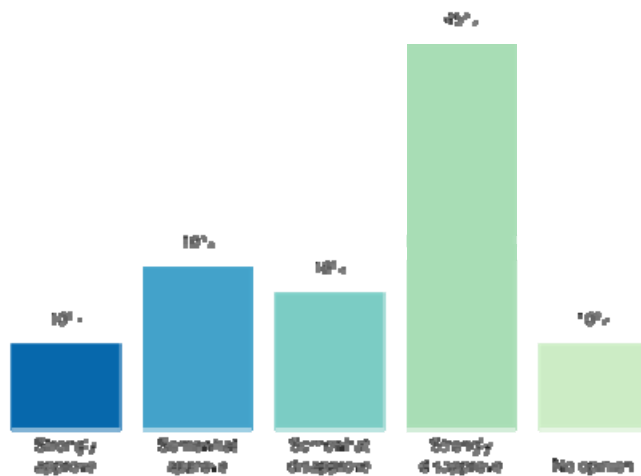
asked if respondent has heard about possible government shutdowns



YouGov
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43 of Americans think a government shutdown would affect them personally, including a majority of those 65 and older - most of whom receive Social Security checks from the government. The budget deficit is a major issue for the public - especially for Republicans. Nationally, it ranks fourth as the country's most important issue, behind the economy, health care and Social Security. For Republicans, it is second. In this week's poll, 37 of Republicans call the economy their most important issue; 22 name the deficit. Only 4 of Democrats cite the deficit. And it is an issue the President fares poorly on: more than twice as many disapprove of his handling of the deficit as approve.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the budget deficit?



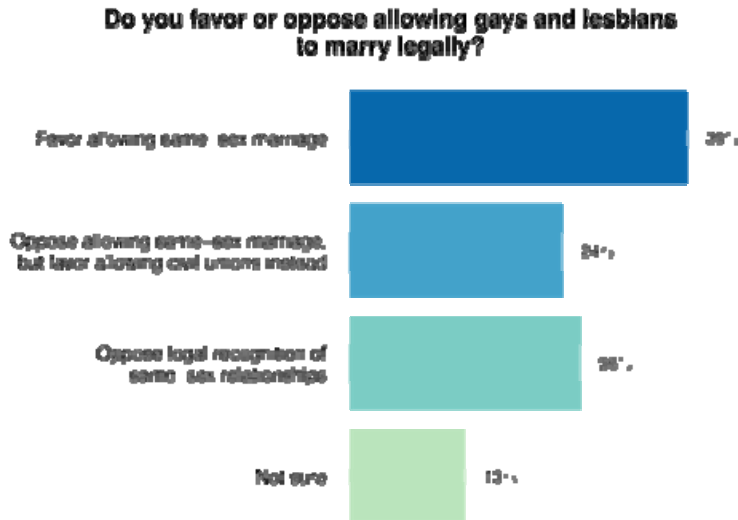
YouGov
today.yougov.com

Source: <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/03/03/government-shutdown/>

161-11. Same-Sex Marriage

Thu March 3, 5:25 p.m. PST by YouGov Staff in Economist Poll

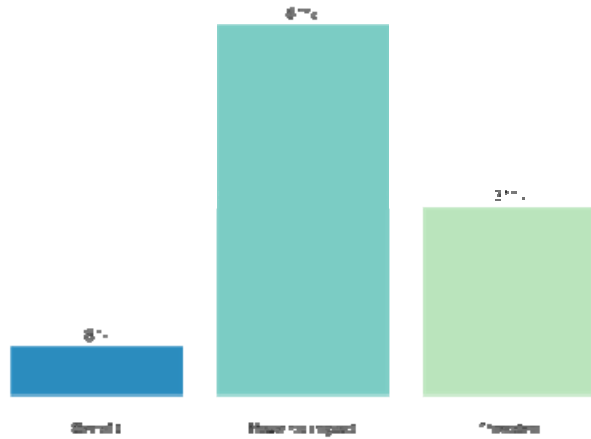
Americans may not be ready to legalize same-sex marriages, but they are ready for civil unions between people of the same sex. In the latest *Economist/YouGov* Poll, 38 support giving homosexuals the right to marry, but when those who would favor civil unions are included, support rises to 62.



26 want no legal recognition of same-sex couples.

There are stark differences on this question by party, by age, by education and by race. 46 of Republicans oppose any recognition of same-sex couples. Half of those under 30, half of college graduates, and half of Democrats support same-sex marriage. Regionally, there is the most support for same-sex marriage in the West and the least in the South. Whites and Hispanics are more in favor than are African-Americans. But religion also plays an important role in attitudes towards same-sex marriage (and other opinions about gays and lesbians). Nearly half of those who go to religious services once a week oppose any recognition of same-sex couples, while half of those who never attend services favor same-sex marriage.

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



Some who oppose same-sex marriage make a moral argument; others claim that permitting same-sex marriage would threaten traditional male-female marriages. Most Americans see little impact of legalizing same-sex marriages on the traditional male-female marriage. Majorities in every age group see no impact. But 56 of Republicans say it would threaten traditional marriage.

Three in four of those who oppose any legal recognition for same-sex couples say that recognition would threaten traditional marriage, and 40 of those who want civil unions only agree.

The (im)morality claim has more support. Most who oppose same-sex marriage (including many who would support civil unions) regard same-sex marriage as something immoral. In fact, a majority of Americans say that same-sex marriages are immoral.

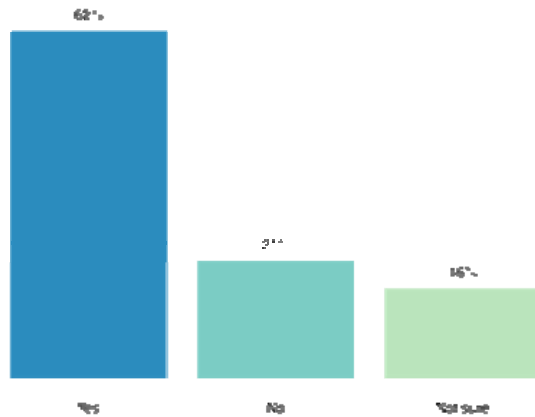
Do you think same sex marriages are moral or immoral?



More than a third of those Americans who never attend religious services regard same-sex marriages as immoral.

There is significantly more support for allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the military than there is for same-sex marriage. More than six in ten Americans support this; just 21 oppose it. Majorities of those who are most religious favor letting gays and lesbians serve openly. So do 35 of those who want no legal recognition of same-sex relationships - not even civil unions.

Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military?



YouGov
today.yougov.com

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy will not end for a while - not until the Pentagon certifies it is ready to implement the end. And even when that happens, there will still be a 60-day countdown to its actual end. But Americans, by 45 to 33, believe it has ended and that homosexuals can serve openly today.

Source: <http://today.yougov.com/news/2011/03/03/same-sex-marriage/>

161-12. Shifting Political Winds

Frustration with Government but Less Anger; More Support Gay Marriage, Abortion
March 3, 2011

Anger at Government Subsidies

	Sept 2010	Mar 2011	Change
<i>Feeling about the federal government</i>	%	%	
Angry	23	14	-9
Frustrated	52	59	+7
Content	21	22	+1
Don't know	4	5	
	100	100	
<i>Percent "angry" among...</i>			
Republican	33	16	-17
Independent	27	15	-12
Democrat	11	10	-1
Agree with Tea Party	47*	28	-19

Most Continue to Support Conviction over Compromise

	Sept 2010*	Mar 2011	Change
<i>I like elected officials who...</i>	%	%	
Stick to their positions	55	54	-1
Make compromises with people they disagree with	40	40	0
Neither/Both/Don't know	5	7	
	100	100	
<i>Percent "stick to positions" among...</i>			
Republican	67	63	-4
Democrat	50	48	-2
Independent	51	53	+2
Agree with Tea Party	66	69	+3

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
 * Based on registered voters.

The public remains deeply frustrated with the federal government, but fewer Americans say they are angry at government than did so last fall. Overall, the percentage saying they are angry with the federal government has fallen from 23% last September to 14% today, with much of the decline coming among Republicans and Tea Party supporters.

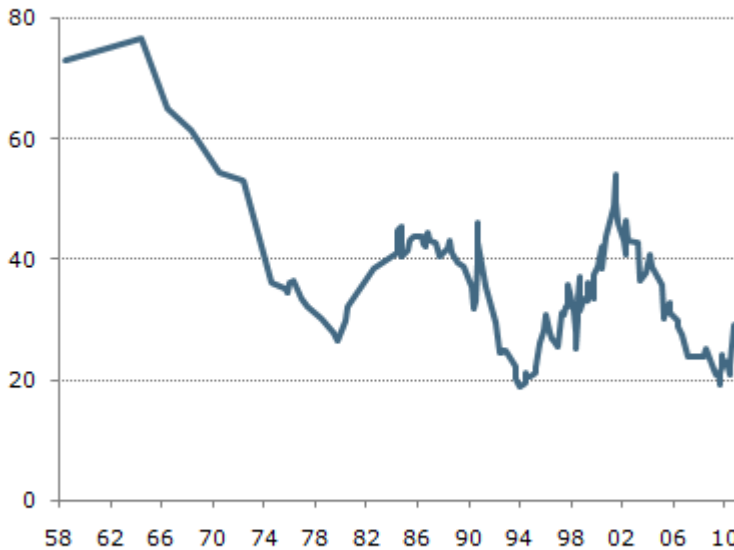
While anger at government has subsided, the public expresses no greater taste for political compromise today than it did last fall. As political leaders head into a tough political debate over the budget, 54% say they like elected officials who stick to their positions, while 40% prefer officials who make compromises with people they disagree with. This is virtually identical to the balance of opinion among registered voters last September.

By roughly two-to-one (63% vs. 32%), more Republicans say they like elected officials who stick to their positions rather than those who make compromises. About half of independents (53%) prefer politicians who stick to their positions compared with 41% who like elected officials who make compromises with people they disagree with. Democrats are evenly divided - 48% like elected officials who stick to their positions, 46% like those who compromise.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 22-Mar. 1 among 1,504 adults, finds a modest recovery in public trust in government from historic lows last year. Yet even with this uptick, the general mood remains overwhelmingly negative.

Public Trust in Government, 1958-2011

Trust the government in Washington to do what is right "just about always" or "most of the time"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA25. Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN Polls. From 1976-2010 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

Just 29% say they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always or most of the time, up from 22% last March. About seven-in-ten (69%) say they trust the government only some of the time or never, compared with 76% a year ago.

The proportion of Republicans saying they can trust the government always or most of the time has increased from 13% to 24% over the past year; opinions among Democrats are unchanged over this period, at 34%.

The public continues to express negative views of Congress, as well as Republican and Democratic congressional leaders. Just 34% say they have a favorable opinion of Congress, up slightly from 26% a year ago; a majority (57%) has an unfavorable view. Comparable percentages say they approve of the job performance of Republican (36%) and Democratic (33%) congressional leaders.

By contrast, Barack Obama's job ratings remain positive. Currently, 51% approve of Barack Obama's job performance while 39% disapprove. That is little changed from early February, but Obama's ratings have shown significant improvement since last fall, when about as many approved as disapproved.

Liberal Movement on Gay Marriage, Abortion

	2008	2009	2010	2011	09-11 change
<i>Allow gays and lesbians to marry legally...</i>	%	%	%	%	
Favor	39	37	42	45	+8
Oppose	51	54	48	46	-8
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>Abortion should be...</i>					
Legal in all/most cases	55	47	50	54	+7
Illegal in all/most cases	39	44	44	42	-2
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

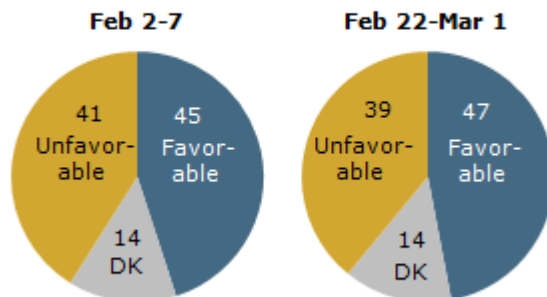
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA61, A62. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Gay marriage opinions based on yearly averages for 2008-2010; abortion opinions based on yearly averages for 2008-2009.

The survey finds a continuing rise in support for same-sex marriages since 2009. Currently, 45% say they favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 46% are opposed. In Pew Research surveys conducted in 2010, 42% favored and 48% opposed gay marriage and in 2009, just 37% backed same-sex marriage while 54% were opposed.

Over the same period, there has been movement toward a liberal position on abortion. In 2009, for the first time in many years, the public was evenly divided over whether abortion should be legal or illegal in all or most cases. But support for legal abortion has recovered and now stands at about the same level as in 2008 (55% then, 54% today).

Independents have become more supportive of both gay marriage and legal abortion since 2009. Roughly half of independents (51%) now favor same-sex marriage, up from 37% in 2009. And 58% of independents say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, compared with 47% in Pew Research Center surveys two years ago.

Labor Union Favorability Holds Steady through Wisconsin Dispute



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 21-Mar. 1, 2011. QA4e.

The public's overall views of labor unions have changed little through the lengthy stalemate between Wisconsin's governor and the state's public employee unions over collective bargaining rights. About half (47%) say they have a favorable opinion of labor unions compared with 39% who have an unfavorable opinion. In early February, 45% expressed a favorable opinion of unions and 41% said they had an unfavorable view. However, liberal Democrats and people in

union households are more likely to say they have a very favorable opinion of labor unions than they were just weeks ago.

For more on public attitudes toward labor unions, see Pew Research's [Feb. 17 report](#). For more on views of the showdown in Wisconsin between the governor and public employee unions, see [this report](#), released Feb. 28.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1913/poll-trust-washington-anger-government-gay-marriage-support-abortion>

161-13. Wisconsin Unions Favored Over Walker in Showdown

Obama, GOP Leaders Would Share Blame in Federal Government Shutdown
February 28, 2011

Wisconsin Unions Favored in Showdown

<i>In collective bargaining dispute, do you side more with ...</i>	Feb 2011
Public employee unions	42
The governor	31
Neither (Vol)	9
Don't know	<u>18</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 24-27, 2011.

By a modest margin, more say they back Wisconsin's public employee unions rather than the state's governor in their continuing dispute over collective bargaining rights.

Roughly four-in-ten (42%) say they side more with the public employee unions, while 31% say they side more with the governor, Scott Walker, according to the latest Pew Research Center survey, conducted Feb. 24-27 among 1,009 adults.

In Washington, meanwhile, prospects for an imminent government shutdown decreased as Republicans and Democrats neared a short-term budget deal.

Divided over Possible Gov't Shutdown

<i>If federal government shuts down, who would be most to blame ...</i>	Feb 2011
Republicans	36
Obama administration	35
Both equally (Vol)	17
Neither/Don't know	<u>11</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/Washington Post Feb. 24-27, 2011.

However, the public is divided over who would be more to blame if the federal government were to shut down as a result of a budget impasse: 36% say Republicans would be more to blame, 35% say the Obama administration and 17% volunteer that both would be to blame. This question was asked jointly by the Pew Research and *The Washington Post*.

Opinions are notably different today than they were the last time a budget battle threatened a government shutdown. In November 1995, a *Washington Post*/ABC News survey asked a similar question and found that 46% said a possible government shutdown would be mainly the Republicans' fault; just 27% said the bulk of the blame would fall on the Clinton administration.

The differences in opinions between now and then may well be more linked to changes in views of the GOP House speaker rather than the Democratic president. Obama's current approval rating of 49% is about the same as Bill Clinton's in October 1995 (48%).

But the current House speaker, John Boehner, is viewed far less negatively than Newt Gingrich was in 1995. In December 2010, 28% expressed a favorable opinion of Boehner while 25% had an unfavorable view. In August 1995, a few months before the budget impasse, 30% had a favorable view of Gingrich while 54% had an unfavorable opinion.

Democrats, Young, Less Affluent Side Strongly With Unions

Lower-Income People Side with Unions while the Affluent Are Split

<i>In Wisconsin collective bargaining dispute, do you side more with ...</i>	Unions %	Gover- nor %	Union- Gov Diff
Total	42	31	+11
Republican	17	53	-36
Democrat	67	12	+55
Independent	39	34	+5
18-29	46	13	+33
30-49	40	32	+8
50-64	49	35	+14
65+	33	45	-12
White	38	36	+2
Nonwhite	51	19	+32
<i>Household income</i>			
\$75,000 or more	36	40	-4
\$30,000-\$74,999	49	31	+18
Less than \$30,000	46	20	+26

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 24-27, 2011.

Democrats overwhelmingly side with the government employee unions in the ongoing dispute in Wisconsin. Two-thirds (67%) say this, compared with just 12% who say they side more with the governor. About half of Republicans (53%) say they side more with Gov. Walker; 17% say they side more with the public employee unions. Independents are evenly divided (39% side more with the unions, 34% more with the governor).

Among those ages 18 to 29, nearly half (46%) say they side more with the public employee unions, while 13% say they side with the governor. Among those ages 65 and older, the balance is reversed -- but the gap more narrow (45% say they side more with the governor, 33% with the unions).

While whites are nearly evenly divided (38% unions, 36% governor), non-white people are much more likely to say they side more with the unions that represent public employee workers (51% vs. 19%).

And while those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more are divided (36% side more with the unions, 40% with the governor), those earning less clearly side more with the government employee unions. Among those with family income of less than \$30,000, 46% say they side more with the unions, while 20% say they side more with the governor.

Partisan Divide on Potential Blame for Federal Shutdown

Looking at the possibility of a federal government shutdown if Republicans and the Obama administration cannot agree on a budget, partisans on both sides would put the bulk of the blame on the opposing party.

Blame Would be Shared if Shutdown Occurs

<i>If federal gov't shutdown, who would be most to blame?</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Republicans	36	8	63	32
Obama administration	35	69	11	37
Both equally	17	17	17	17
Neither/DK	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER, Washington Post Feb. 24-27, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About seven-in-ten Republicans (69%) say the administration would be most to blame. Just 8% would blame their own party's leaders. More than six-in-ten Democrats (63%) say congressional Republicans would be most responsible for any shutdown, while 11% say the administration would be most to blame. Independents are divided: 32% say Republicans and 37% say the administration would be mostly to blame. Among all three groups, 17% say both would share the blame equally.

In November 1995, just days before a standoff between congressional Republicans and the Clinton administration led to a partial government shutdown, most Democrats (71%) said Republicans would be responsible for any shutdown, while a smaller majority of Republicans (57%) put the blame on Clinton. Unlike today, many more independents said they would blame the Republicans (46%) than the Clinton administration (24%).

In early January 1996, with the government in a partial shutdown, the public continued to put more blame on the Republicans, according to a second *Washington Post/ABC News* survey. At that point, a plurality (44%) said the GOP was mainly to blame for the shutdown, while 25% said the Clinton administration was mainly to blame and 24% blamed both sides.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1910/poll-wisconsin-unions-favored-governor-scott-walker-president-obama-gop-leadership-government-shutdown>

161-14. Americans Maintain Broad Support for Israel

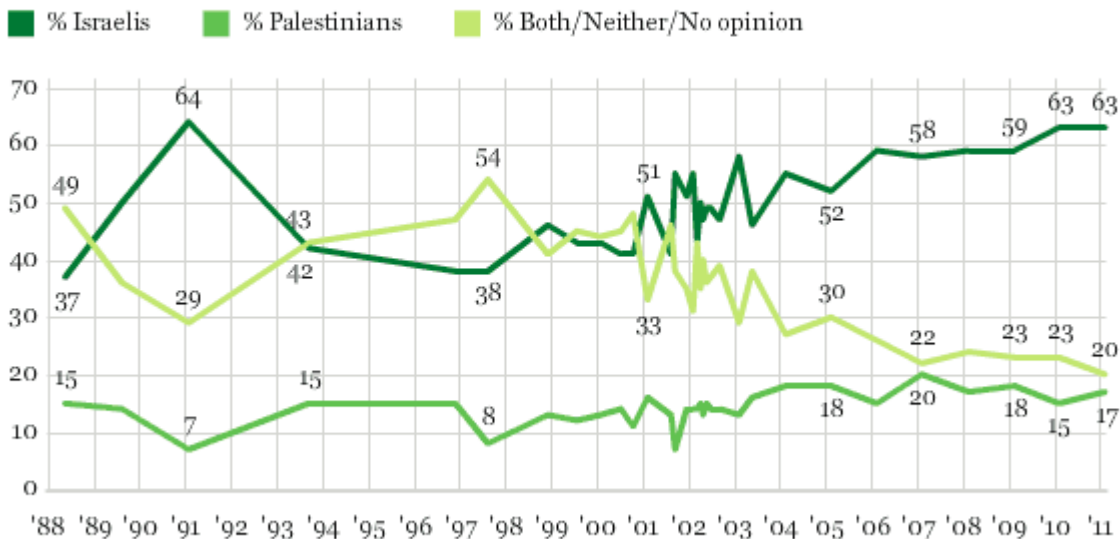
U.S. adults nearly four times as likely to side with Israelis as with Palestinians

February 28, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' views toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict held fairly steady over the past year, with a near record-high 63% continuing to say their sympathies lie more with the Israelis. Seventeen percent sympathize more with the Palestinians.

Middle East Sympathies, Full Trend

In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?



GALLUP

In measuring Americans' sympathies toward the disputants in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1988, Gallup has found support for Israel consistently exceeding support for the Palestinians. However, the percentage who are neutral -- saying they sympathize equally with both, sympathize with neither, or expressing no opinion -- has shifted, with corresponding changes in support for Israel. While the reasons for these changes are not always evident, public neutrality was generally higher in the 1990s as the Palestinians and the Israelis often met at Clinton administration-sponsored peace summits.

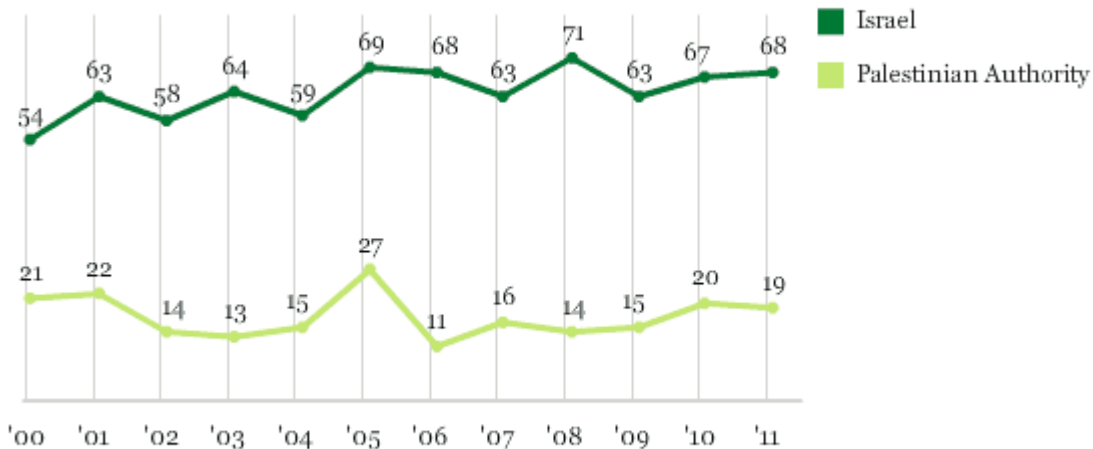
Conversely, support for Israel increased during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, as well as immediately after the 9/11 attacks in 2001 and during the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war -- all events that may have enhanced Israel's perceived value to the U.S. as a Mideast ally. Sympathy toward Israel was also higher in polling conducted shortly after Hamas' victory in the 2006 Palestinian elections compared with the year prior, perhaps for the same reason.

The new results are from Gallup's Feb. 2-5, 2011, update of the annual Gallup World Affairs survey, conducted as the citizen uprising in Egypt was unfolding.

In addition to the heavy tilt toward Israel in U.S. public sympathies, the poll finds a wide gap in Americans' overall views of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, according to a question asking separately whether they view each very favorably, mostly favorably, mostly unfavorably, or very unfavorably. About two-thirds of Americans have a favorable opinion of Israel and 19% have a favorable opinion of the Palestinian Authority -- largely unchanged from February 2010.

Favorable Views Toward Israel and the Palestinian Authority

% Very/Mostly favorable



GALLUP

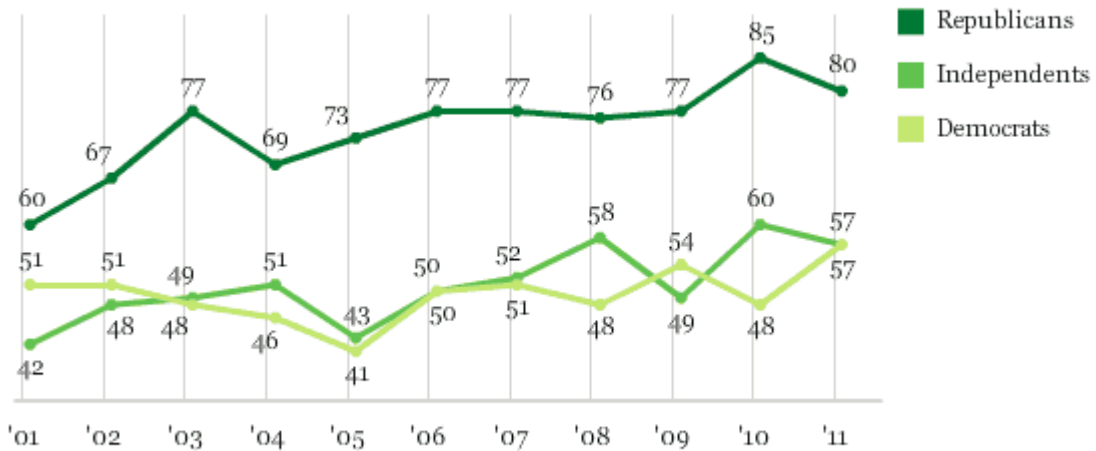
Range of Sympathy for Israel Bounded by Republicans and Liberals

Republicans continue to be Israel's strongest U.S. supporters: 80% sympathize more with the Israelis in the conflict, substantially higher than the 57% of independents and Democrats sharing this view. A similar pattern is seen by political ideology, ranging from 74% among conservatives to 49% among liberals -- with liberals the least supportive of Israel of any group Gallup measured.

Over the past decade, Republicans have consistently shown greater support than Democrats for Israel; however, the partisan gap has widened, with Republicans becoming even more supportive between 2001 and 2003 and since 2009. Independents' support for Israel also increased to around 60% in recent years, up from 42% in 2001. At the same time, Democrats' support for Israel has been fairly flat.

Sympathy for Israelis vs. Palestinians in Mideast Situation, by Party ID

% Sympathize more with Israelis



GALLUP'

All major U.S. population subgroups show greater sympathy for the Israelis than for the Palestinians. However, on a relative basis, Palestinians' greatest support is found among liberals (30%), followed by Democrats and those with postgraduate education (24% each).

Additionally, adults aged 18 to 34 are slightly less likely than those 55 and older to sympathize with the Israelis.

Sympathies in Middle East Situation More With Israelis or Palestinians?

Feb. 2-5, 2011

	Israelis	Palestinians	Both/Neither/ No opinion
	%	%	%
National adults	63	17	20
Men	65	17	18
Women	61	17	22
18 to 34 years	58	19	22
35 to 54 years	63	18	20
55 and older	67	14	20
Postgraduate	59	24	17
College grad only	66	15	20
Some college	70	16	14
No college	58	14	27
Republicans	80	7	13
Independents	57	18	25
Democrats	57	24	19
Conservative	74	9	16
Moderate	62	18	21
Liberal	49	30	21

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

In recent years, with no major breakthroughs in the Mideast peace process and no resolution to the Hamas vs. Fatah political rift in the Palestinian territories, Americans' sympathies toward the conflict's players have leaned heavily toward the Israelis. In fact, with more than 60% of Americans sympathizing with Israel since 2010, public support for the Jewish state has been stronger than at any time other than in 1991, when Israel was hit by Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf War.

Israel currently enjoys popular U.S. support across all major party groups and most major societal subgroups; however, sympathy for it is particularly strong among Republicans and, relatedly, among conservatives.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 2-5, 2011, with a random sample of 1,015 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/146408/Americans-Maintain-Broad-Support-Israel.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

161-15. Voters Remain Pessimistic about Economy and Future

(3/1/2011)

Zogby Interactive

Fault government and business job creation efforts

UTICA, NY--Less than 30% of voters with children believe their offspring will have a better life than them, and 25% do not feel secure in their jobs, a new Zogby Interactive Survey finds.

The February 22-24 survey finds that more than half of likely voters give U.S. economic policy poor grades, and majorities say neither government nor businesses have done enough to create jobs.

Compared to a poll done in October, 2009 there is only one indicator of small improvement, as the percentage of voters saying their personal financial situations is fair increased and those describing it as poor decreased.

Here are comparisons of four economic questions asked last week and in Oct. 2009.

How would you rate U.S. economic policy?

U.S. economic policy	Feb. 24, 2011	Oct. 26, 2009
Excellent	<1%	3%
Good	9%	19%
Fair	32%	23%
Poor	56%	54%
Not Sure	3%	2%

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

How would you rate your personal financial situation?

Personal finances	Feb. 24, 2011	Oct. 26, 2009
Excellent	6%	6%
Good	32%	30%
Fair	45%	40%

Poor	16%	24%
Not Sure	1%	1%

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

How secure do you feel in your current job?

Job security	Feb. 24, 2011	Oct. 26, 2009
Very secure	27%	27%
Fairly secure	33%	31%
Not very secure	14%	14%
Not secure at all	11%	14%
Not Sure	16%	15%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

How confident are you that your children will have a better life than you?

Confidence	Feb. 24, 2011	Oct. 26, 2009
Very	7%	12%
Fairly	21%	23%
Not very	35%	30%
Not at all	16%	17%
Not Sure or Have no children	21%	18%

The table below shows how many voters say business, the U.S. government and their state government have done enough to create jobs.

Done enough to create jobs	Yes	No	Not sure
Business	22%	65%	13%
U.S. government	17%	74%	9%
My state government	16%	71%	13%

Pollster John Zogby: "While some economists are saying the economy has improved, voters don't seem to be feeling it. Most disturbing is that half of voters have lost faith that their children will have a better life than they have had. It certainly implies an acceptance of a new norm of high unemployment and limited economic mobility."

The interactive poll of 1,981 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.2%. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population.

Source: <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.cfm?ID=1953>

161-16. Disconnect Evident Between Voters and House;

Public Takes Opposite Stance on Many Approved/Defeated Budget Measures
(2/28/2011)

Zogby Interactive

Obama Approval at 46%

UTICA, NY - A Zogby Interactive poll of likely voters which tested nine budget proposals voted on by the House of Representatives finds just one of four that passed has majority approval among respondents, while all five that were voted down by the House are approved by more than 50% of voters.

The poll conducted from Feb. 22-24, 2011 also finds President Barack Obama's approval rating at 46%, remaining within three percentage points of what we have found in five similar polls conducted so far this year. Approval of Congress as a whole continues at 32%, and approval for each party's members of Congress also held steady at 41% for Republicans and 35% for Democrats. The percentage saying the nation is headed in the right direction stays about where it has been at 27%

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job as president?

Obama Job Performance	Feb. 24	Feb. 21	Feb. 8	Jan. 31	Jan. 4	Dec. 10	Dec. 1	Nov. 22	Nov. 15	Nov. 10
Approve	46%	45%	46%	44%	43%	39%	42%	39%	42%	42%
Disapprove	53%	55%	53%	56%	56%	61%	58%	60%	58%	57%
Not sure	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%

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

House Budget Amendments

On Feb. 19, the House of Representatives passed \$60 billion in budget cuts. In the preceding days, the House voted on more than 400 amendments to the budget bill. We selected five of those that passed in the House and four that failed, and then asked voters if they strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of each. The nine measures featured were selected based on how well known and understood we thought they were to voters.

This table shows the combined totals who either strongly or somewhat approved of each of five budget amendments that passed in the House. Also shown in parenthesis is the actual House vote total, with "yes" first:

<i>Approval of budget measures passed by House of Representatives</i>	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Reduce financing for the National Endowment for the Arts to \$21 million (241-187)	62%	32%	87%	68%
Prohibit financing for Health Care Law (239-187)	49%	11%	86%	51%
Prohibit the E.P.A. from regulating greenhouse gases (249-177)	47%	15%	82%	45%
Eliminate funding for family planning and women's reproductive health care programs (240-185)	44%	12%	79%	42%

A small majority of voters (52%) disapproved of eliminating funding for family planning and a plurality (49%) disapproved of prohibiting the E.P.A. financing for greenhouse gases. However, for prohibiting financing of the Health Care Law, a plurality of 49% approved.

This table shows the combined totals who either strongly or somewhat approved of each of four budget amendments that did not pass in the House. Also shown in parenthesis is the actual House vote total, with "yes" first:

Approval of budget measures defeated by House of Representatives	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Prohibit government sponsoring of NASCAR cars (148-281)	81%	89%	72%	83%
Restore \$50 million in heating subsidies for the poor (104-322)	69%	84%	52%	70%
Eliminate \$1.5 Billion for Iraqi security forces (133-299)	65%	75%	56%	63%
Reduce funding for Amtrak by \$447 million (176-250)	55%	29%	82%	54%
Limit military funding for Afghan War to no more than \$10 billion (98-331)	54%	72%	34%	57%

Pollster John Zogby: "We know that cutting the federal budget is popular, but what actually gets cut may not be what most voters had in mind. As always, the coming budget showdown will be more influenced by the power of special interests and each party's base voters than it will by overall voter sentiment."

The interactive poll of 1,981 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.2%. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population.

Source: <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.cfm?ID=1952>

161-17. How the Public Perceives Community Information Systems

March 1, 2011

When people think about issues in their communities, they usually frame those issues through practical questions they would like to see addressed. Is the town budget too high or too low? Are teachers doing a good job? Are the streets safe? Do emergency responders have the right training? How can traffic congestion be eased? Does the library have the best technology for patrons? Do zoning rules work the best way? Are all the people in the community getting fair access to social services?

The way that people address questions like those is to gather, share and act on information. Yet there is not much knowledge about how the parts of a community's information system work and fit together. Believing it would be useful for communities to examine how well their own

information systems were performing, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation asked the Monitor Institute to explore key components of local information systems in three communities with advisory help from the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project. This report is the fruit of an eight-month research effort pilot testing several research methods in Macon, Philadelphia, and San Jose to probe key parts of those systems. Some of the findings, especially in surveys conducted in the communities, were notable and surprising:

- Those who think local government does well in sharing information are also more likely to be satisfied with other parts of civic life. Those who believe city hall is forthcoming are more likely than others to feel good about: the overall quality of their community, the ability of the entire information environment of their community to give them the information that matters, the overall performance of their local government and the performance of all manner of civic and journalistic institutions.

- Broadband users are sometimes less satisfied than others with community life. That raises the possibility that upgrades in a local information system might produce more critical, activist citizens.

- Social media like Facebook and Twitter are emerging as key parts of the civic landscape and mobile connectivity is beginning to affect people's interactions with civic life. Some 32% of the internet users in the three communities combined get local news from a social networking site -- 19% get such news from blogs and 7% get such news from Twitter. And 32% post updates and local news on social networking sites.

- If citizens feel empowered, communities get benefits in both directions. Those who believe they can impact their community are more likely to be engaged in civic activities and are more likely to be satisfied with their towns.

Those who are happy about their local government’s transparency also feel good about the performance of other local institutions

% of residents in Philadelphia, San Jose, Macon who rate local institutions as doing a good or excellent job

	Those who say local gov does very/pretty well sharing info N=953	Those who say local gov does not very/not too well sharing info N=457
Quite satisfied with their community*	65%	45%
Feel people like me can have a big/moderate impact on the community	72%	59%
Feel news and info sources give them all the information that matters	30%	11%
Fire dept doing good/excellent job	90%	79%
Libraries doing good/excellent job	82%	64%
Local TV stations doing good/excellent job	79%	63%
Local newspapers doing good/excellent job	76%	44%
Police dept doing good/excellent job	72%	46%
Local cultural organizations doing good/excellent job	57%	32%
Public schools doing good/excellent job	55%	32%
Local business organizations doing good/excellent job	55%	31%
City government doing good/excellent job	38%	12%

*Residents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a 1-5 scale with 5 being “extremely satisfied.” These were the respondents who rated their community either a 4 or a 5

Source: Monitor Institute - Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project November 2010 surveys in Philadelphia, San Jose, and Macon. N=1,510 adults age 18 and older in the three communities combined, including 398 reached via cell phone. Interviews conducted in English and Spanish.

These surveys were part of an exploratory period of research by the Monitor Institute and the Pew Internet Project that used several methodologies to examine the components of local information systems that were highlighted by the Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy, a joint project with the Aspen Institute. The commission argued in October 2009 that a healthy democratic community depends on a strong information system and engaged citizens who take advantage of that information. The Commission maintained there are three dimensions of the system: a robust, diverse supply of information, a sophisticated communications infrastructure for delivering information and residents with the skills needed to access that information and use it in effective ways to address their community's needs. Further, Commission members said they believed there were several key indicators of information systems that performed well:

1. Quality journalism through local newspapers, local television and radio stations and online sources.
2. A local government with a committed policy on transparency.

3. Citizens with effective opportunities to have their voices heard and to affect public policy.
4. Ready access to information that enhances quality of life, including information provided by trusted intermediary organizations in the community on a variety of subjects.
5. High speed internet available to all citizens.
6. Local schools with computer and high-speed internet access, as well as curricula that support digital and media literacy.
7. A vibrant public library or other public center for information that provides digital resources and professional assistance.
8. A majority of government information and services online, accessible through a central and easy-to-use portal.

The information people seek online about their communities. Cell phones are becoming a key tool to access important material.

% of internet users in Philadelphia, Macon, San Jose who seek various kinds of local information online

	Philadelphia n=342	Macon n=348	San Jose n=433
Transportation services or local road conditions	54%	24%	50%
How they got the info online			
Cell phone	8%	7%	7%
Computer	65%	67%	62%
Both	27%	26%	31%
Activities of your local government	39%	30%	37%
How they got the info online			
Cell phone	2%	0%	1%
Computer	78%	89%	80%
Both	20%	11%	20%
Your local schools	35%	42%	44%
How they got the info online			
Cell phone	6%	6%	2%
Computer	66%	80%	76%
Both	28%	14%	22%
Materials that might be available at local libraries	35%	33%	48%
How they got the info online			
Cell phone	5%	1%	2%
Computer	65%	78%	80%
Both	30%	20%	17%
Property taxes	30%	39%	29%
How they got the info online			
Cell phone	2%	2%	1%
Computer	86%	91%	88%
Both	13%	7%	11%
Safety services such as police and fire protection	18%	18%	21%
How they got the info online			
Cell phone	11%	4%	4%
Computer	68%	74%	76%
Both	21%	21%	20%
% who always find the material they were seeking	25%	25%	28%
% of those who found the information who say information is very clear/easy to understand	37%	37%	38%

The aim of the Monitor Institute-Pew Internet work was to try to examine these different components of the information systems in three communities and the Monitor Institute was

asked to create an easy-to-use set of tools to help community leaders assess and improve their local information ecology. Version 1.0 of the Community Information Toolkit can be accessed at www.infotoolkit.org. In addition, there was an opportunity to probe more deeply with the surveys and those findings make up the core of this report. They sometimes highlight consistent patterns of adoption, impact and interaction among the features of local information systems. At the same time, there are varying results depending on the community.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1909/online-community-information-systems-civic-life-social-networks>

161-18. Public Proposes Federal Budget Dramatically Different Than House or White House

March 3, 2011

American Public Shows How it Would Cut the Budget Deficit

An innovative study has found that when a representative sample of the American public was presented the federal budget, they proposed changes far different from those the Obama administration or the Republican-led House have proposed.

The biggest difference in spending is that the public favored deep cuts in defense spending, while the administration and the House propose modest increases. However, the public also favored more spending on job training, education, and pollution control than did either the administration or the House. On average the public made a net reduction of \$146 billion--far more than either the administration or the House called for.

While there were some partisan differences in the magnitude of spending changes, in two out of three cases average Republicans, Democrats and independents agreed on which items should be cut or increased.

The public also showed readiness to increase taxes by an average of \$292 billion--again, far more than either the administration or the House.

"Clearly both the administration and the Republican-led House are out of step with the public's values and priorities in regard to the budget," comments Steven Kull, director of the Program for Public Consultation (PPC), which conducted the study. PPC is a joint program of the Center on Policy Attitudes and the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland. Unlike in conventional polls, PPC consults with the public by presenting respondents with information on policy issues and a range of options to address them. In this case respondents were presented the discretionary budget, with descriptions of each program, and allowed to make changes.

On average, the public cut defense spending by 18%, reducing it by \$109 billion. By contrast, the president's proposal increases defense spending by 4% and the House calls for increasing it 2%. For intelligence agencies the public cut 15%, while the administration says the agencies would grow, though at a slower pace.

The most dramatic differences were for job training and higher education. The public increased job training a whopping 130%, while the House cut it by a stark 47%. The administration nipped it 3%. For higher education, the House cut it 26%, the administration increased it 9% and the public increased it 92%.

Energy and the environment were also major areas of difference. The House bill cuts the Department of Energy's work on renewables and efficiency by 36%, while the administration increases it 44%. The public went even further, increasing it 110%. While the House cuts the EPA's budget by 39% and the administration cuts it by 13%, the public increased spending on pollution control by 17%.

The public cut the space program 17%, while neither the administration nor the House made significant changes. The administration made modest increases to science, as did the public (5%), but the House cut it by 12%.

The public cut spending for foreign aid that is meant to serve strategic purposes. Aid to countries "of strategic concern"--known as the Economic Support Fund--was cut a substantial 23% while military aid was cut 15%. The administration cut the Economic Support Fund 9% while the House cut it 6%, but neither made significant cuts to military aid.

For more altruistic forms of aid, on balance the public made little change--increasing humanitarian aid by 18%, cutting development assistance 14% and leaving spending on global health essentially unchanged. In the president's 2012 proposal, humanitarian assistance funding is cut 8%, while funding for global health gets an increase (11%) and so does development assistance (12%). In the House bill, humanitarian assistance is cut 17%, global health by 6% and development assistance by 18%.

The administration is calling for large scale increases to federal spending in highways (53%), air travel and roads (36%), and mass transit (109%). The House made a deep cut (27%) to mass transit. The public, meanwhile, makes modest cuts to highways (9%) and air travel and roads (7%), but leaves mass transit essentially unchanged.

For this analysis the changes the public made in the budget exercise were compared to the OMB projected budget for 2015, while those the administration made were in its 2012 budget proposal relative to the previous year. Changes by the House were based on the recently-passed changes to spending for 2011. (2011 spending is lower than 2015 projections but the distributions are very similar; thus comparisons of percentage changes are meaningful.)

Besides making changes to spending, respondents were presented a series of options for increasing revenue. On average respondents increased revenues by \$292 billion. The largest portion was from income taxes: majorities increased taxes on incomes over \$100,000 by 5% or more and increased them by 10% or more for incomes over \$500,000. Majorities also increased corporate taxes and other excise taxes.

For the estate tax, a majority (77%) favored reverting at least to the 2009 levels, taxing estates over \$3.5 million at a 45% rate. Only 15% of respondents supported the estate tax levels recently passed: taxing estates over \$5 million at a 35% rate.

The Obama administration holds to its position that the Bush-era tax cuts for incomes above \$250,000 should be allowed to expire, and now proposes this for after 2012. By 2015 this would generate \$97.2 billion in revenues. The House leadership has so far not made any proposal to increase tax revenues and has favored making the Bush tax cuts permanent.

The public study was fielded December 18-29 with a sample of 793 respondents (margin of error plus or minus 3.5%). It was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel[®], a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel[®]. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, Knowledge Networks provides a laptop and ISP connection. More technical information is available <http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp/reviewer-info.html>.

Source:

<http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brunitedstatescanadara/679.php?nid=&id=&pnt=679&lb=>

LATIN AMERICA

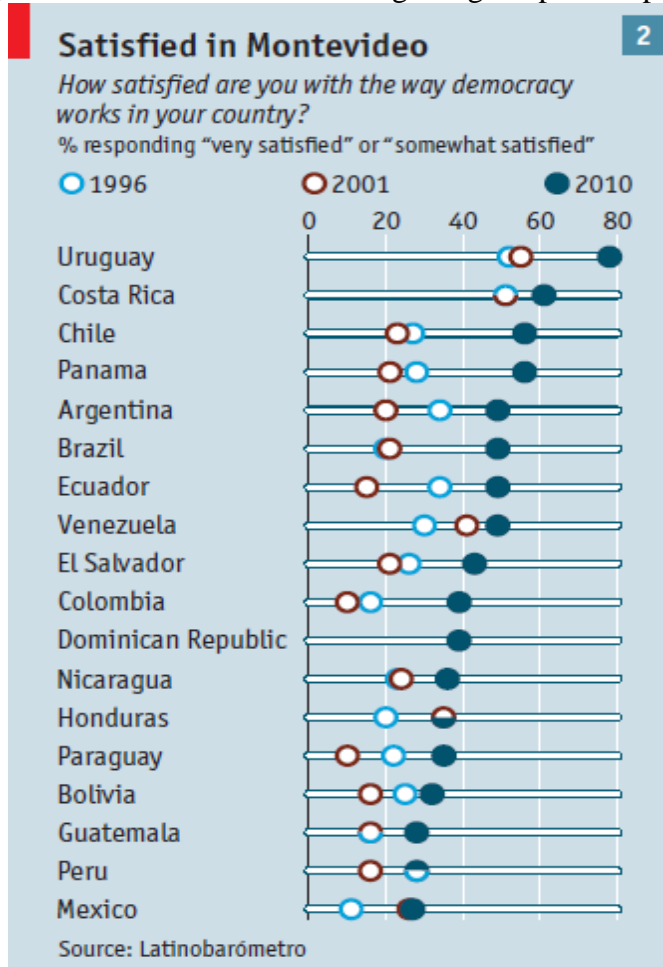
161-19. The Democratic Routine

A good crisis and a robust economic recovery have brought a sunnier mood

December 2010

Support for democracy in Latin America continues to edge up as does backing for private enterprise. For the first time crime is a bigger worry in the region than unemployment. And Brazil is seen as more influential than the United States across much of the region. Those are some of the findings of the latest Latinobarómetro poll taken in 18 countries across the region and published exclusively by *The Economist*. Because the poll has been taken regularly since 1995, it tracks changes in attitude across the region.

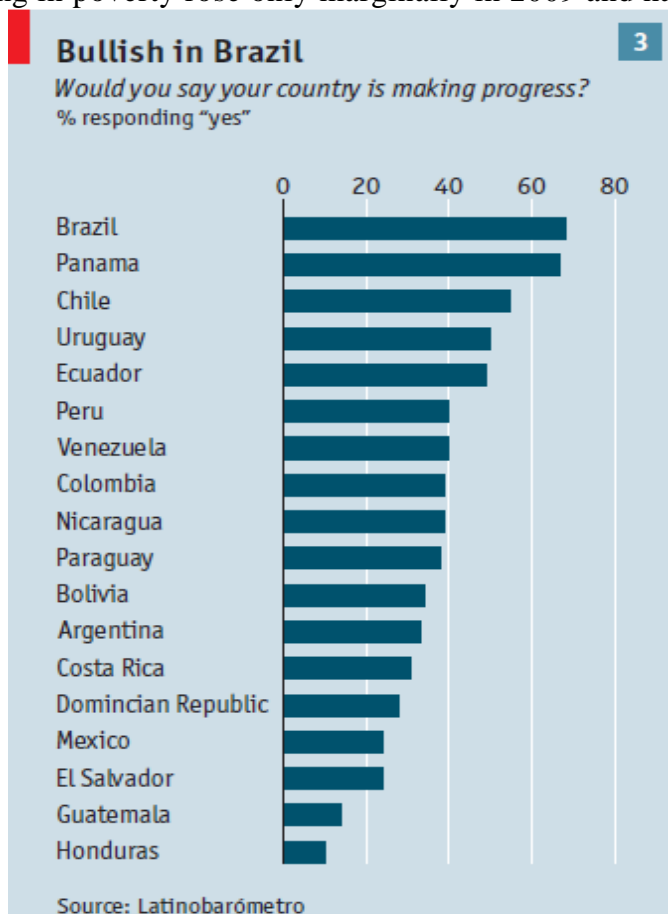
Two, related, things stand out in the results of this year's poll, taken in September and early October. The first is the region's fairly sunny mood. The second is the increasing stability of attitudes towards democracy and its core institutions. Support for democracy has risen noticeably in several countries on the Pacific rim of South America. For example in Peru, where economic growth has averaged 6% a year since 2002, support for democracy has risen from a low of 40% in 2005 to 61% this year. It also rose in Mexico, where the economy has recovered after suffering a big drop in output last year.



But only around half of respondents in Mexico and Brazil, the region's two most populous countries, are convinced democrats, which drags down the regional average (see Chart 1; the online version of this article includes a table with results for individual countries.)

Some 44% of respondents across the region pronounced themselves satisfied with how their country's democracy works in practice, the same figure as last year but a big increase on the 25% in 2001 (Chart 2). Some 34% said they had confidence in their country's Congress and 45% in their government, the same as last year in both cases but up sharply from 2003 (17% and 24% respectively).

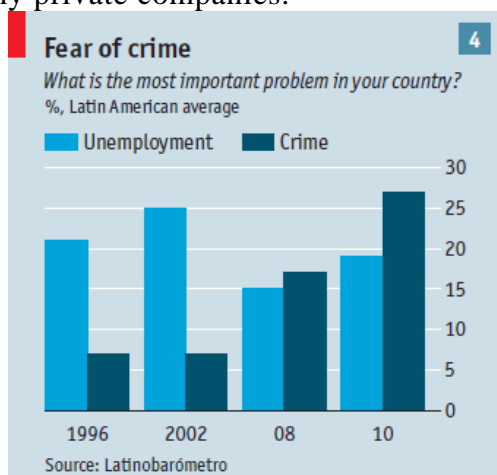
A decade ago economic woes in Latin America undermined support for democracy. That it has held up during the world financial crisis is probably because many Latin American countries suffered only a brief recession and have enjoyed a strong recovery. In addition, a stronger social safety net has helped to shield the poor. (The United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America reported this week that the proportion of Latin Americans living in poverty rose only marginally in 2009 and has fallen again this year, to 32%).



But the mood varies widely from country to country (see Chart 3). Brazil's strong economic performance and the popularity of its outgoing president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, is reflected in a widely shared sense of progress. That is scarcer in Mexico and Central America, where the recession was more severe and violent crime has worsened. For the first time most respondents across Latin America as a whole cite crime, rather than unemployment, as the most important problem facing their country (see chart 4). Some 31% say that either they or a close relative have been a victim of crime over the past year, but that is down from 38% last year and is the lowest figure since 1995.

A more robust economic performance is reflected in rising support for private enterprise and the market economy: some 71% of respondents across the region say that private enterprise is indispensable for development, up from 56% in 2007. Some 58% agree that the

market economy is the only system that will make their country developed, up from 47% last year. Interestingly, 62% of respondents in Venezuela hold that view (and 80% there back private enterprise) even though their left-wing president, Hugo Chávez, is expropriating many private companies.



Brazil is the country which exercises most leadership in the region, mentioned by 19% of respondents (up from 18% last year), followed by the United States (9%, unchanged from last year) and Venezuela (9%, down from 11% last year). But the United States is seen as the most influential country by respondents in Mexico and much of Central America, while Venezuela enjoys that distinction in Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

Source: http://www.latinobarometro.org/docs/ECONOMIST_4_Diciembre_2010.pdf

AUSTRALASIA

161-20. New Zealand Government Confidence Rating down After Christchurch Earthquake

Finding No. 4639 - This latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll on voting intention was conducted by telephone with a NZ wide cross-section of 888 electors from February 14-27, 2011. Of all electors surveyed 5.5% (down 1.5%) didn't name a party.: March 04, 2011

The latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll shows the Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating has fallen 21 points to 114.5 with 49.5% (down 10.5%) of New Zealanders saying New Zealand is 'heading in the right direction' compared to 35% (up 10.5%) that say New Zealand is 'heading in the wrong direction.' The large fall in the GCR follows last week's devastating earthquake in Christchurch, the largest city on the South Island.

At the same time support for John Key's National-led Government is down 1.5% to 53.5%. Support for Prime Minister Key's National Party is 49% (down 3.5%), the Maori Party 3% (up 1.5%), ACT NZ 1.5% (up 1%) and United Future 0% (down 0.5%).

Support for Opposition Parties is up 1.5% to 46.5% — Labour Party 35% (up 2%), Greens 8%, (down 0.5%), New Zealand First 3% (up 0.5%) and others 0.5% (down 0.5%).

If a National Election were held today the **National Party would be returned to Government.**

Gary Morgan says:

"Following the devastating Christchurch earthquake last week today's New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll shows a sharp fall in the New Zealand Government Confidence Rating with 49.5% (down 10.5%) now saying New Zealand is 'heading in the right direction' — the lowest it has been since Prime Minister John Key came to power in late 2008.

“Clearly the Key Government’s response to the earthquake will be important in determining its electoral fortunes at this year’s election and this week National (49%, down 3.5%) has dropped back as the main Opposition Labour Party (35%, up 2%) has picked up support. Despite this, the National-led Government (53.5%) still commands a clear majority of support nationwide.”

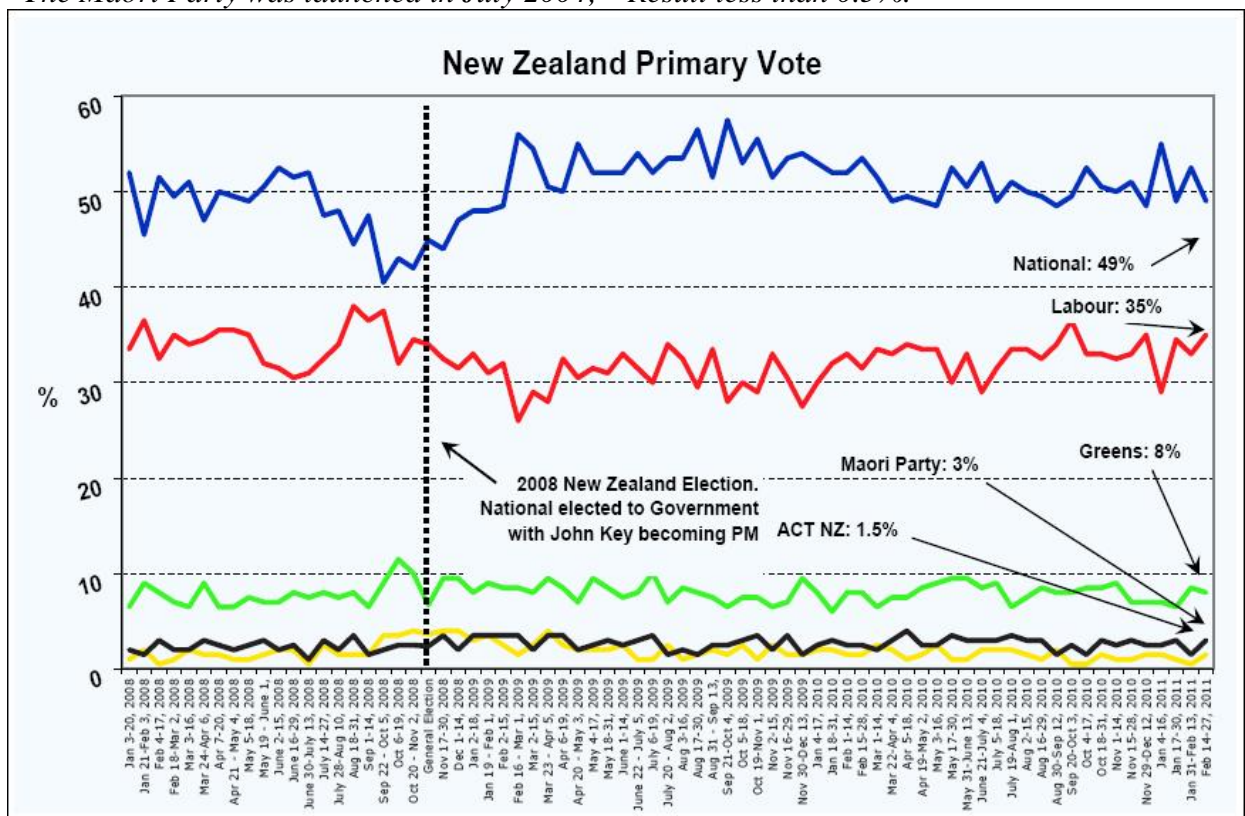
Electors were asked: “If a New Zealand Election were held today which party would receive your party vote?”

This latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll on voting intention was conducted by telephone with a NZ wide cross-section of 888 electors from February 14-27, 2011. Of all electors surveyed 5.5% (down 1.5%) didn’t name a party.

Voting Intention Summary

The following table compares the latest NZ Morgan Polls on Voting Intention with the result from the November 8, 2008 General Election:

**The Maori Party was launched in July 2004; ^ Result less than 0.5%.*



Voting Intention Summary - National Party-Led Government V All Opposition Parties

The following table compares the latest NZ Morgan Polls on Voting Intention with the result from the November 8, 2008 General Election:

*National-led Government: National Party, Maori Party, ACT NZ, United Future;
 #Opposition Parties: Labour Party, Green Party, Progressive Party, NZ First, Other.

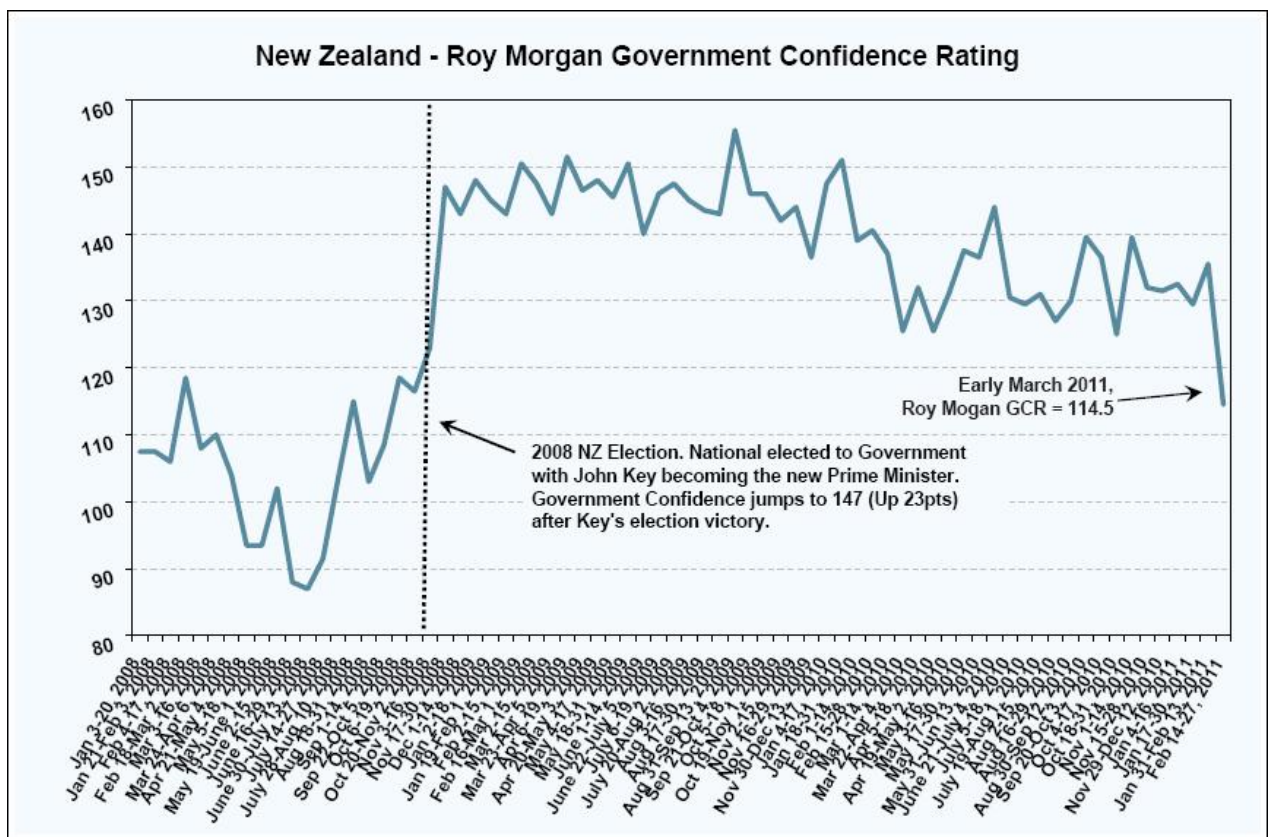
New Zealand: Heading In “Right” Or “Wrong” Direction?

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

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

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Margin of Error

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

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate						
	40%-	25%	or	10%	or	5%	or
	60%	75%		90%		95%	
500	±4.5	±3.9		±2.7		±1.9	

1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
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Source: <http://www.roymorgan.com/news/polls/2011/4639/>

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

161-21. The Economic Pulse of the World

Citizens in 24 Countries Assess the Current State of their
Country's Economy for a Total Global Perspective

March 01, 2011

Fieldwork:14 - 24 January 2011

These are the findings of the *Global @dvisor* Wave 17 (G@1 7), an Ipsos survey conducted between January 14 and January 24, 2011.

The survey instrument is conducted monthly in 24 countries around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system. The countries reporting herein are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America.

For the results of the survey presented herein, an international sample of 18,829 adults aged 18-64 in the US and Canada, and age 16-64 in all other countries, were interviewed. Approximately 1000+ individuals participated on a country by country basis via the Ipsos Online Panel with the exception of Argentina, Belgium, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden and Turkey, where each have a sample approximately 500+.

Weighting was employed to balance demographics and ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to the most recent country Census data available and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.1 percentage points for a sample of 1,000 and an estimated margin of error of +/- 4.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20 per country of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in that country had been polled.

SUMMARY

The global average across all three assessments of national, local and the future of the economy has stood still from last month to this despite individual country movements.

Individual countries have their own stories to tell:

Canada is the superstar this wave, showing the highest cumulative growth on all three measures.

India, while still a world leader, drops significantly on all three measures

Saudi Arabia, China remain stable world leaders on all three measures.

Sweden jumps seven points on national economic confidence but does not predict a bright local future.

Poland's declines this wave represent steady downward slopes over the past year

Global Economic Assessment Average at a Standstill...Is this the 'New Normal'?

2011 has kicked off with a continuation of the relatively flat assessment of the 2010 average: 40% say the current economic condition in their country is "good".

The global assessment managed to maintain a stable two-point increase since January 2010 (38%) but remains substantially behind spring 2007 levels (57%).

Observers have to ask themselves: what does this modest 2 point increase over the past year mean? Has the global economy truly stagnated, and for how long, or is the pause indicative of a slowly-but-surely, inch by inch, long term recovery? Is this the new reality where the BRIC nations most of the time and a few others keep their engines at full torque while others remain mired in the muck or buried in it?

But while January’s sounding remains stagnant on the top line, there are movements by a number of countries that merit reporting...

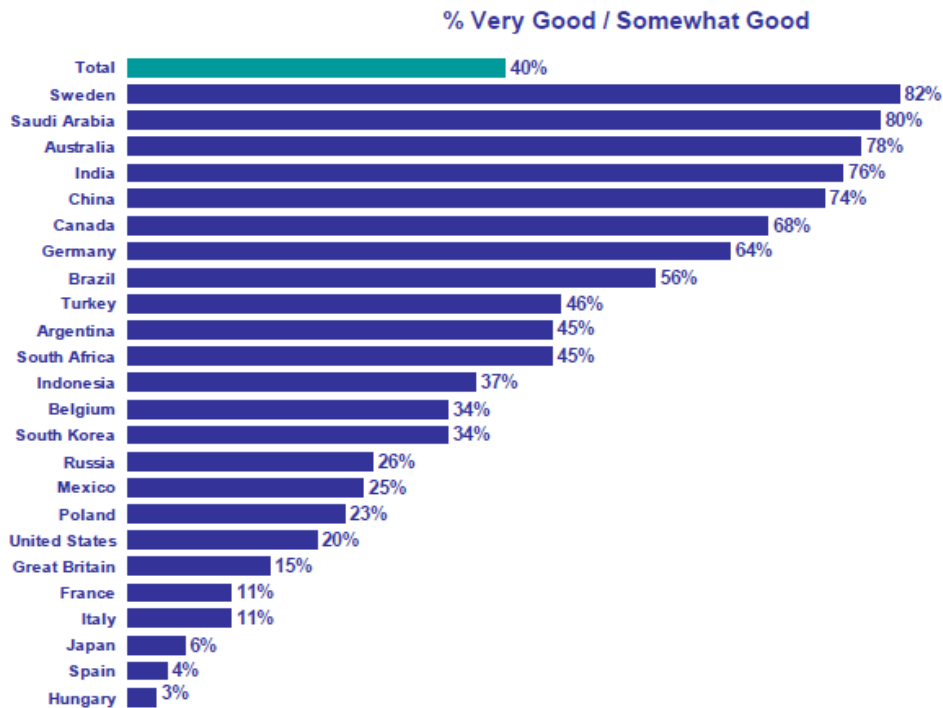
Some Individual Country Observations on the Strength of National Economic Situations

Sweden is now, and for the first time since 2007 when Ipsos started tracking these measures, at the top of all 24 countries who assess their economy as “good” – up seven points to 82%. As Europe’s fastest-growing economy, Sweden outshines Germany (up one point to 64%), last year’s juggernaut.

After a dip in late 2010, Canada has rebounded to earlier 2010 levels by rising 6 points this wave to 68% who give a positive assessment of the national economy. In fact, of all of the countries measured this time it’s Canada that manages to score a trifecta by rising substantially in current and future assessments.



Four in Ten [40%, ▼1 from December 2010]
Global Citizens Assess the Current Economic Situation in their Country as “Good”



Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in [insert country]?
 Is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad?

A Global @dvisorv – February 2011

The sharpest decreases are evident in this wave in Asia-Pacific. Sharp spikes in food prices in both India and Indonesia may have caused each to drop 11 points in their relative national economic assessments, pushing India (76%) from first to fourth place and Indonesia (37%) down to the middle of the pack this wave.

Great Britain has scraped its way out of the bottom of the global national assessment barrel with an increase of two points to 15%. The bottom five now rank: Hungary (3%), Spain (4%), Japan (6%), France (11%) and Italy (11%).

Global Aggregate of Local Economic Assessment Remains Unchanged

Next is the assessment of the local economy on a country by country basis. The global average, which has not changed from last month, is not terribly encouraging as it sits at 30% but there are regions and countries worth mentioning...

North America is up three points to 34%. Canada drives this increase with a positive local economic assessment up 7 points to 49% while the United States continues to sputter dropping 1 point to 19%.

Despite the devastating floods, Australians are apparently not feeling the financial impact this January: Australia is on top of all countries ranked in local economic assessments with a five point increase to 60%.

Saudi Arabia and China continue in the upper echelon of countries reporting their assessment of their local economies, despite the former dropping one point (57%) and the latter rising one point (56%) this wave.

Japan has dropped two points to 4%, solidifying its place at the bottom of the global list after Spain (9%) and Hungary (12%).

Nothing's Changed: Three in Ten Continue to Think their Local Economy Will be Stronger Six Months From Now

Finally, Global citizens retain the hesitancy they adopted in December when their outlook on the future of their local economy dropped two points: only 27% say they think it will be stronger in the next six months.

Despite consumer prices rising in January at the fastest pace since 2005, Brazil continues to be the definite global frontrunner in optimism concerning the local economy with 73% saying they expect the local economy to be much stronger in the next six months. Brazil is followed at some length by second place India at 55%.

Poland (12%) witnessed the sharpest decrease compared to all other countries assessed (-9 points) in January and now keeps company with the lowest-ranked nations, France (5%) and Japan (8%), on this measure.

Germany rebounds from December's dip as outlook rises 3 points and puts local optimism back to 30%.

Source:<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/Assets/Docs/Polls/ipsos-global-advisor-global-economic-pulse-feb-2011.pdf>

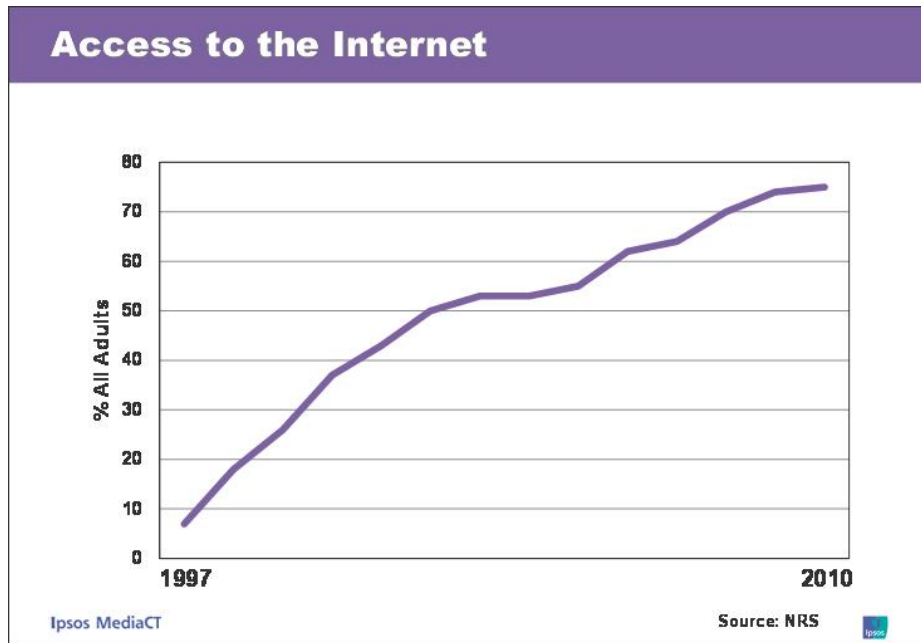
CYBER WORLD

161-22. Three in four British adults are online

March 02, 2011

Recently published data from the National Readership Survey (NRS Jan-Dec 2010) tell us that an important milestone in the history of the internet has been reached. For the first time, three quarters of the adult 15+ population of Great Britain have accessed the internet in the past 12 months.

The NRS started asking about internet access in 1997 when 14% of the population claimed to be online. Within just five years, this figure increased rapidly to 50% and a further eight years on the 75% milestone has now been reached. The online population has risen steadily and sharply over time, albeit at a marginally slower rate over recent years.



Further analysis shows that there is an age and class divide when it comes to who has online access. Those aged over 55 and the ‘working class’ (C2DE) are less likely than the population as a whole to be online.

The primary purpose of the NRS is to provide readership estimates for the newspaper and magazine publications it measures, but it is also a valuable source of information about changes in the British population, given that it has been running continuously for over 50 years (see also our ‘We’re getting even more upmarket’ Light Bite).

The NRS also shows us how the nation’s use of IT and telecoms is growing over time. In 1997, a quarter of GB adults (25%) claimed to have a computer in their home; the proportion now is two-thirds (67%), half of whom (34%) have at least two PCs/laptops. We also now have 75% of adults claiming to have broadband access at home. Back in 1997, 20% of us said we had a mobile phone; today, around 9 in 10 of us (87%) have a mobile and smartphones are particularly on the rise (20%).

All this is pointing in the right direction for the Government’s vision for a Digital Britain. In its 2009 report, the DCMS laid out a three year plan to boost the country’s digital participation, which included making the net more affordable as well as striving for universal broadband access. This is positive news for the wider goal of boosting the digital economy, but these latest results also show that perhaps there is still a bit more to do with the old and the poor to get the remaining 25% online.

Source: <http://www.ipsos-mori.com/newsevents/blogs/mediactlightbites/653/Three-in-four-British-adults-are-online.aspx>
