

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This week report consists of **37** surveys. **Four** of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 33 are national surveys.

167-38 *Commentary:*

Cubans Aspiring for Democracy and Market Economy

Over the course of its public opinion survey work in Cuba dating back to 2007, the International Republican Institute (IRI) has followed a number of indicators that track changes in the mood and opinions of the Cuban people. The latest survey was conducted January 28 - February 10, 2011. Among the trends that the data points to:



- Cubans still overwhelmingly desire democracy and freedom in their country, including multiparty elections and freedom of expression. The response rate signifying this desire is higher than at any time since Raul Castro assumed the presidency of Cuba in 2008.
- Due to restrictions on access, only one out of 20 adults in Cuba report ever going online.
- More than **90 %** of Cubans want a market economy system, with economic freedoms, opportunities to own property, and the right to own businesses.
- Citizens remain very concerned with their economic future and more than three of four Cuban citizens (**77 %**) do not have confidence that their government will succeed in solving this challenge.
- Contrary to Cuban government reports that seven million citizens participated in town hall style meetings leading up to the April 16 Communist Party Congress, nearly **78 %** of survey respondents report they did not.

Findings:

Desire for Fundamental Change

More than three-in-four Cuban adults would vote for fundamental political change (**78 %**) if given the opportunity, and nine-in-ten citizens (**91 %**) would support economic change. While a vast majority of Cuban citizens across the board support change, there is a clear correlation between age, education, and support for change. However a majority of every demographic group, including a majority of citizens born before 1959 – the cohort generally described as most loyal to the regime – indicate they favor both political and economic change.

As the Cuban government approaches their Communist Party Congress on April 16, only **19 %** of citizens say that had even minimal levels of involvement in community and/or local discussions regarding local needs or desired reforms. This figure is at odds with Cuban government claims that more than seven million citizens were involved in local forums.

Economic Concerns

Economic concerns remain predominant in Cubans' lives with well over three-quarters of Cuban citizens (**85 %**) citing low salaries and the high cost of living (**61 %**), food scarcity (**13 %**) or challenges with the island's double-currency system (**12 %**) as their biggest concern. In general, older respondents are more concerned with issues such as food scarcity while younger respondents and those with a higher level of education focus their immediate concerns on low salaries and the high cost of living.

Notably the problem of food scarcity (**13 %**) remains the second most commonly cited problem, despite Raul Castro's launch of limited agricultural reforms beginning in 2008.

Recent cuts in subsidies of basic foodstuffs and the move to eliminate the ration card further highlight the struggles that Cubans will continue to face with regard to access to food.

Increased Pessimism

Cuban citizens are losing confidence in their government's ability to address problems and needs. While in 2008, **27 %** of Cubans felt that the government *could* solve Cuba's biggest problem, now only **14 %** believe that to be true. Overall, more than three-in-four Cuban citizens (**77 %**) do *not* have confidence that their government will succeed in solving their problems.

44 % of interviewees stated that their economic situation was worse now than two years ago, in the aftermath of two major hurricanes.

Cubans' Lack of Access to Information Technology

Cuban access to information technology is limited in both breadth and medium, with the state controlling the right to own and use telecommunication services. Less than **5 %** of Cubans have access to the Internet, while only **23 %** of Cubans have any access to an email account. It is important to note that these numbers indicate individuals who have some level of access at work or elsewhere, since home internet connections remain unavailable to Cuban citizens.

Of the small percentage that have any form of access, three-fourths (**75%**) have access of weekly or less, and less than one-third reported daily access (**24%**). This data reflects why Cuba is considered one of the most closed societies in the world when it comes to information and technology access.

Despite growth in the number of cellular users since the government allowed citizens to purchase cell phones in 2008, only **25 %** of Cubans report having *access to use* a cell phone. (The phrasing of IRI's question yields a higher number than the actual cellular penetration rate of about **10 %**, as individual cellphones are typically shared among family and friends. The proportional change in IRI's access rate since its previous poll in late 2009 mirrors industry data on the increase in mobile subscribers).

Cuba still lags far behind other countries in Latin America with the lowest mobile phone penetration – significantly below the second lowest, Haiti at **35 %**, and well below the regional average of **90 %**.

Source: <http://www.iri.org/news-events-press-center/news/iri-releases-survey-cuban-public-opinion>

167-39 CUBA

CUBA:

Population: 11,087,330 (July 2011 est.)

GDP per Capita (PPP): \$9,900 (2010 est.)

◆ The native Amerindian population of Cuba began to decline after the European discovery of the island by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1492 and following its development as a Spanish colony during the next several centuries. Large numbers of African slaves were imported to work the coffee and sugar plantations, and Havana became the launching point for the annual treasure fleets bound for Spain from Mexico and Peru. Spanish rule eventually provoked an independence movement and occasional rebellions that were harshly suppressed. US intervention during the Spanish-American War in 1898 assisted the Cubans in overthrowing Spanish rule. The Treaty of Paris established Cuban independence from the US in 1902 after which the island experienced a string of governments mostly dominated by the military and corrupt politicians. Fidel CASTRO led a rebel army to victory in 1959; his iron rule held the subsequent regime together for nearly five decades. He stepped down as president in February 2008 in favor of his younger brother Raul CASTRO. Cuba's Communist revolution, with Soviet support, was exported throughout Latin America and Africa during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The country faced a severe economic downturn in 1990 following the withdrawal of former Soviet subsidies worth \$4 billion to \$6 billion annually. Cuba at times portrays the US embargo, in place since 1961, as the source of its difficulties. Illicit migration to the US - using homemade rafts, alien smugglers, air flights, or via the southwest border - is a continuing problem. The US Coast Guard intercepted 982 individuals attempting to cross the Straits of Florida in fiscal year 2009.

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

SUMMARY OF POLLS

MIDDLE EAST

Tunisians Seem Satisfied With The Recent Developments in Their Country

In the post revolution survey, despite feeling the pinch of poor economy, a large majority of Tunisians believe that their country is going in the right direction. However people are divided on the issue that their politics in the country should be based on religion or secularism. (Elka Consulting/IRI)

April 10, 2011

Youth Revolts & Al-Jazera Leaks Pose Threat to Hamas & Fateh

A recent survey shows that while youth revolts in the Arab World pose a threat to Hamas and its government in the Gaza Strip, al Jazeera leaks of PLO documents recording Palestinian-Israeli negotiations pose a threat to Fateh and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and the US use of its veto power against the UNSC resolution denouncing Israeli settlements destroys much of American credibility in the peace process. (PCPSR)
10 April 2011

WEST ASIA

Pakistanis Views Are Split About The Supremacy of China & US

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, Pakistanis views are split about the issue that who is more powerful? China or US. 32% of all Pakistanis believe USA to be more powerful, where as 31% hold a similar view about China. (Gallup Pakistan)
April 13, 2011

SOUTH ASIA

India: Oil's not well...

A majority of Indians support the country's stance on Libya in condemning the US-led airstrikes. More than two third majorities oppose US airstrikes against Libya. However more than half of Indians believe that west will be able to oust Qadafi. (Team Cvoter)
April 2011

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Ranking Professional Communications and PR Companies in South Africa: The Good, the Bad and the Lag behind Global Standards

An independent study of public relations and communications agencies in South Africa has revealed that the media believe that the good PR and communications professionals are excellent but there are only a few, while the bad ones are of a particularly poor quality. (Ipsos South Africa)
13 April 2011

EAST EUROPE

War In Libya: View From Russia

A recent survey shows that Russians think that the world community should not intervene in the situation in Libya. None of the parties involved in the conflict is supported by Russians. (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)
March 24, 2011

Fukushima Accident: Is There A Threat To Russia?

The situation in Japan is considered to be the natural disaster. Russians are confident that the accident at the "Fukushima-1" power plant poses threat to Russia. (Russian Public Opinion Research Center)
March 31, 2011

WEST EUROPE

UK Retailers continue to face faltering footfall

The latest data from Synovate Retail Performance shows that retail footfall in March in the UK was significantly lower than the same month a year ago. The Retail Traffic Index (RTI) for the month was 7.0% down compared to March 2010, but up 1.5% on February. (Synovate)
April 08, 2011

One in Four Britons Smoke, Are Obese

Smoking and obesity -- two factors known to increase the risk for chronic health problems -- are significant health challenges for the United Kingdom. More than one in four British adults smoke and one in four are obese, likely putting a strain on the country's healthcare system. (Gallup USA)

April 12, 2011

Poor Workplaces Present Key Challenge for the UK

Work environments emerge as a key challenge for Britons according to the inaugural findings from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index in the United Kingdom. When the U.S. and the U.K. are compared across six key areas of wellbeing, the U.K. lags behind the U.S. the most in terms of workers' perceptions of their workplaces. (Gallup USA)

April 12, 2011

NORTH AMERICA

Obama Job Approval at 41%, Tying His Low

The latest Gallup Daily tracking three-day average shows 41% of Americans approving of the job Barack Obama is doing as president. That ties his low as president, which he registered three times previously -- twice in August 2010 and once in October 2010. (Gallup USA)

April 15, 2011

Gov. Christie Unknown to Majority of Americans

Though New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is well regarded in Republican circles and mentioned as a potential 2012 Republican presidential candidate, more than half of Americans have no opinion of him. He is slightly better known among Republicans, who generally view him positively. (Gallup USA)

April 11, 2011

Romney Not Generating Strong Positive Intensity

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who Monday announced the formation of a presidential exploratory committee, is among the most recognized Republicans who are thought to be most likely to run for president in 2012. At the same time, his Positive Intensity Score among Republicans nationwide does not stand out. (Gallup USA)

April 12, 2011

U.S. Economic Optimism Plummets in March

Americans' optimism about the future direction of the U.S. economy plunged in March for the second month in a row, as the percentage of Americans saying the economy is "getting better" fell to 33% -- down from 41% in January. It is also down three points from the 36% of March 2010. (Gallup USA)

April 12, 2011

Americans Oppose Eliminating Income Tax Deductions

Americans make it clear they want to keep common federal income tax deductions, regardless of whether the proposed elimination of those deductions is framed as part of a plan to lower the overall income tax rate or as a way to reduce the federal budget deficit. No more than one in three Americans favor eliminating any of the deductions in either scenario. (Gallup USA)

April 15, 2011

Americans Trust Governors, Business Leaders Most on Economy

Americans have the most confidence in their state governor and in business leaders to do the right thing for the economy. President Obama comes in third, followed by Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke ties with congressional Democrats and ranks slightly higher than Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, Tea Party leaders, and labor union leaders. (Gallup USA)

April 14, 2011

Budget Rises as Most Important Problem to Highest Since '96

President Obama releases his plan to curb the federal deficit with Americans' concern about the federal budget and deficit growing to its highest level in 15 years. Currently, 17% say it is the most important problem facing the country, the highest Gallup has measured since it began asking the "most important problem" question on a monthly basis in 2001, and the highest in any Gallup poll since January 1996. (Gallup USA)

April 13, 2011

Budget Negotiations in a Word

The public has an overwhelmingly negative reaction to the budget negotiations that narrowly avoided a government shutdown. The survey finds that "ridiculous" is the word used most frequently to describe the budget negotiations, followed by "disgusting," "frustrating," "messy," "disappointing" and "stupid." (Pew Research Center)

April 11, 2011

Americans Back Budget Deal but Declare No Winner

Six in 10 Americans approve of the 11th-hour federal budget agreement that congressional leaders reached in time to avert a government shutdown. Support for the deal made on Friday is somewhat higher among Democrats than among independents and Republicans, 71% vs. 60% and 58%, respectively. (Gallup USA)

April 13, 2011

Home Sweet Home. Still

The five-year swoon in home prices has done little to shake the confidence of the American public in the investment value of homeownership. Fully eight-in-ten (81%) adults agree that buying a home is the best long-term investment a person can make, according to a nationwide Pew Research Center survey. (Pew Research Center)

April 12, 2011

Americans Decry Power of Lobbyists, Corporations, Banks, Feds

Lobbyists, major corporations, banks, and the federal government all have too much power, according to Americans. By contrast, the public largely believes state and local governments, the legal system, organized religion, and the military each have the right amount of power or too little power. Labor unions elicit mixed responses, with the plurality saying they have too much power, but a slim majority saying their power is about right or lacking. (Gallup USA)

April 11, 2011

Most Voters Disagree with Major Medicare Change Proposal

A majority of likely voters does not agree with a major change to the Medicare program proposed last week by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) that would provide Medicare beneficiaries a lump sum that could be used to buy insurance on the private market. They are more evenly split on Ryan's proposal to covert Medicaid to a block grant program. (Ibope-Zogby)

April 12, 2011

Voters Remain Gloomy About Finances, Ability to Buy & Whether Economy Has Bottomed Out
A Zogby poll finds only about one-third Americans feeling better about their personal finances and the national economy. Also, only 30% believe "the U.S. economy has bottomed out and will get better", while 44% instead believe "the U.S. economy continues to worsen." Another 19% say neither description was accurate. (Ibope-Zogby)
April 11, 2011

New Facts About Families

The research suggests "that there is little or no average effect of [family meal frequency] on child cognitive and behavioral outcomes during the period from kindergarten to eighth grade." (Boston and Columbia University)
April 8, 2011

Tea Party: Better Known, Less Popular

As the Tea Party has evolved from a grassroots movement to become a major force on Capitol Hill, public views of the Tea Party have grown more negative. Slightly more disagree with the Tea Party than agree with the movement -- a reversal in public evaluations from a year ago. (Pew Research Center)
April 8, 2011

Civil War at 150: Still Relevant, Still Divisive

As the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War approaches, most Americans say the war between the North and South is still relevant to American politics and public life today. (Pew Research Center)
April 8, 2011

Democrats, Republicans Differ Widely on Taxing the Rich

President Obama's call Wednesday for higher taxes on the wealthiest Americans highlights a partisan and class gulf in Americans' views on taxing the rich. Substantial majorities of Democrats and of those with low incomes endorse the idea of redistributing wealth by heavy taxes on the rich. Two-thirds or more of Republicans and of those with higher incomes disagree. (Gallup USA)
April 14, 2011

American Public Sees Democratization of Middle East as Positive for US

An overwhelming majority of Americans think that it would be positive for the United States if the Middle East were to become more democratic and a solid majority would favor this happening even if this resulted in the country being more likely to oppose US policies. (WPO)
April 11, 2011

U.S. Consumers Less Likely To Consider Purchasing Japanese Or Korean Autos

Over twenty-five percent of U.S. consumers surveyed, report being less likely to purchase automotive brands from Japan or Korea, a strong opinion that is gaining traction since the earthquake and tsunami catastrophe that struck the Japan region in March. (TNS US)
April 14th, 2011

Coalition government acceptable to most Canadians: Survey

A recent survey shows that a majority of Canadians (57%) would find it completely or somewhat acceptable if the party with the most seats forms a coalition government with another party. In addition, even in the absence of perfect knowledge of parliamentary tradition, 1 in 2 Canadians (49%) would find it acceptable if two or more parties, none of

which obtained the most seats individually, would form a coalition in order to form a majority government. (TNS Global)

April 15, 2011

LATIN AMERICA

Cubans Aspiring for Democracy and Market Economy

An IRI survey shows that Cubans still overwhelmingly desire democracy and freedom in their country, including multiparty elections and freedom of expression. The response rate signifying this desire is higher than at any time since Raul Castro assumed the presidency of Cuba in 2008. More than 90 percent of Cubans want a market economy system, with economic freedoms, opportunities to own property, and the right to own businesses. (IRI)

April 2011

AUSTRALASIA

Increasing use of Internet to book accommodation directly now ahead of telephone

When booking accommodation directly, the Internet has overtaken the telephone as the method of choice for Australian holiday/leisure travellers 14+. Australian travellers are becoming more empowered when it comes to booking their holidays or leisure trips, with the incidence of those booking their accommodation directly growing slowly but steadily, sitting at 33% for the twelve months to December 2010. (Roy Morgan Research)

April 11, 2011

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Globally, Minority Acceptance Falls, Then Rises, With GDP

The rising income inequality that often accompanies rapid economic growth can often mean certain minority groups are disproportionately likely to be excluded from new economic opportunities. Gallup data indicate that among the world's poorer countries, residents are less likely to see their communities as good places for racial and ethnic minorities as GDP increases. Among countries with average annual incomes above \$8,000, however, higher GDP levels are linked to more widespread perceptions of minority acceptance. (Gallup USA)

April 14, 2011

Popularly followed sports and sports events in the Middle East and North Africa

The research reveals that the most popular sport followed on TV or in the media on a regular basis in the Middle East and North Africa is football, with 58% of respondents saying they regularly follow the sport. 17% said they regularly watched swimming while motorsports and martial arts/wrestling were cited by 15% of respondents each. (Yougov Siraj)

11 April 2011

Royal wedding to be most watched event of decade

A massive 26.2 million people are set to watch next month's Royal Wedding on TV, making it the UK's most watched event of the last 10 years. Fifty-two per cent of the UK say they will tune in to watch Prince William and Catherine Middleton wed on TV, according to a survey by TNS Omnibus. (TNS Global)

April 11, 2011

CYBER WORLD

Canadians Value Home Internet Connection More Than Other Media Devices

Canadians value their home Internet connection more than any other medium and younger Canadians have already begun to access most of their information and entertainment programming online. (Angus-Reid)

April 13, 2011

Young Arabs More Connected in 2010

Technology's pivotal role in the change that swept the Arab world in late 2010 and early 2011 underscores how quickly its young people are gaining access to information and communication technology. Gallup surveys conducted before the unrest show 87% of 15- to 29-year-olds across the Arab League say they have cellular phone access, up from 79% in 2009. Home and community Internet access are up, too, but not nearly as much. (Gallup USA)

April 11, 2011

MIDDLE EAST

167-1. Tunisians Seem Satisfied With The Recent Developments in Their Country

In the post revolution survey, despite feeling the pinch of poor economy, a large majority of Tunisians believe that their country is going in the right direction. However people are divided on the issue that their politics in the country should be based on religion or secularism.

April 10, 2011

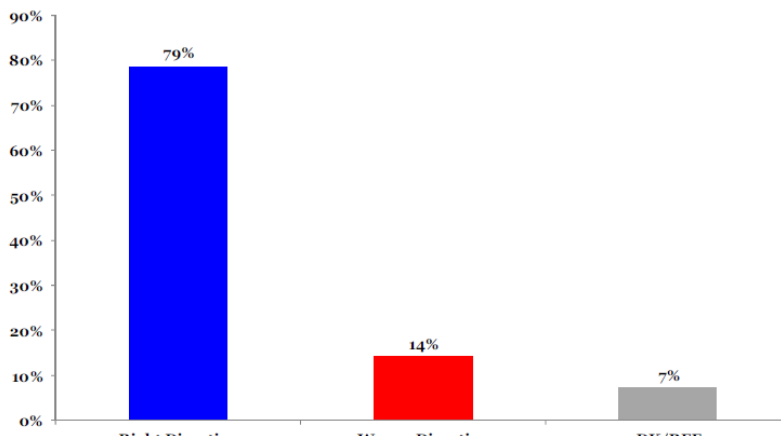
Indicators

This is the first public opinion survey conducted in Tunisia by the International Republican Institute (IRI). The survey was undertaken in cooperation with Elka Consulting, a Tunisia-based market survey research firm that was selected by IRI for its capability to conduct surveys throughout the country.

Independent public opinion surveys were not permitted under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and the lack of current survey data has deprived Tunisian civil society and government officials of an important tool to understand and respond to citizen priorities. This poll was conducted from March 5-18, 2011, and will serve as the baseline for future polls. This is the first published survey in Tunisia that implemented a door-to-door, household interview methodology representative of all 24 provinces.



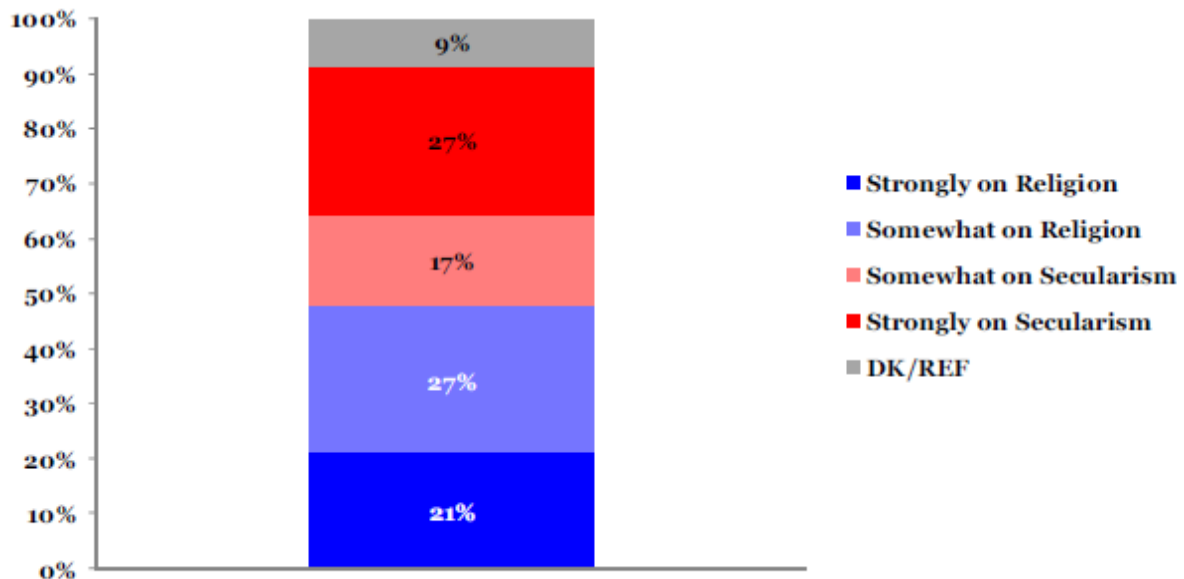
How would you say that things are going in Tunisia these days, are things going in the right direction or the wrong direction?



In the few short months since Ben-Ali's 23-year reign ended, the interim Tunisian government has fallen once and experienced multiple ministerial resignations under popular pressure driven by street protests. The current government recently stated that its primary mandate is to serve in a caretaker role until the July 24 constituent assembly elections occur. The poll asked what the interim government's top priority should be, asking respondents to cite their first, second and third choice of priority. Although respondents most often chose providing jobs for the unemployed (35 percent first mention), organizing free and fair elections was the second priority most often mentioned (30 percent first mention).

Similarly, the survey asked what the single biggest problem facing Tunisia as a whole was, asking respondents to cite their top three problems. Tunisia's internal security was most often cited in respondents first mention (37 percent) followed by unemployment (32 percent).

Collectively, unemployment was mentioned either first, second or third as the top problem 75 percent of the time. Internal security was mentioned either first, second or third 70 percent of the time.



Key findings of the poll are as follows:

- The survey indicates the vast majority of Tunisians (79 percent) believe that the country is headed in the right direction even though 66 percent describe the current economic situation in Tunisia as either somewhat bad or very bad.

- Tunisians are largely split over whether the country's politics should be based on religion or secularism. Forty-eight percent preferred politics based on religion while 44 percent preferred secularism. Among those choosing secularism 27 percent felt strongly about their response compared with 21 percent who felt strongly politics should be based on religion.

- Bearing in mind internal security is a concern among a majority of Tunisians the survey indicates the National Army is the most trusted institution with 80 percent indicating they trust the army a great deal. This compares with 72 percent who said they trust citizen security groups that have emerged since Ben Ali's departure and compares with only 30 percent who said they trust the national police a great deal. The national police registered the strongest negative feelings with 32 percent of respondents saying they do not trust the police at all.

Top Issues

- *Economy*

- o Tunisians feel the country is moving in the right direction in large numbers (79 percent) even though a majority of 66 percent said their current economic situation was bad. This suggests the country continues to experience a positive atmosphere in the aftermath of the revolution. It also corresponds with respondents' view that development of independent media (65 percent) and political reform (59 percent) are the biggest improvements in the past year.

- o Tunisians are about evenly split on their household's financial situation during the past year with 35 percent saying it had gotten better, 36 percent saying it had gotten worse and 31 percent saying it had not changed.

- o Additionally, 32 percent said they have trouble feeding themselves, their families and buying the most essential things for survival. This compares with 43 percent who said they have means for survival but not enough money for extra things, and 22 percent who said they are able to afford things like new clothes and eating at restaurants.

- o Thinking ahead to the next year, Tunisians have high expectations for the economy. Eight-four percent believe their household's financial situation will be better in the next year and 35 percent of those respondents believe it will be much better.

- *Political Transition*

- o The survey asked respondents about the commissions created by Tunisia's interim government to deal with issues of corruption, political reform and human rights violations. A wide majority of 78 percent said they had heard of these commissions.

- o When asked about the individual commissions set-up to deal with these issues, respondents had the most confidence in the political reform commission led by Ayed Ben Achour. Fifty-six percent of respondents indicated they were confident in the political reform commission as compared with 52 percent who said they were confident in the human rights commission and 44 percent who are confident in the corruption commission.

- o The survey was conducted at the time of former Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi's resignation. Among respondents 44 percent said they strongly approve of this resignation and a combined 58 percent indicated they either strongly approve or approve. This compares with 22 percent who strongly disapprove of his resignation.

- o Returning to the issue of politics based on religion or secularism, the survey indicates that a slightly larger number of Tunisians living in rural areas (55 percent) have a preference for politics based on religion when compared to 43 percent of Tunisians in urban areas who feel this way.

- o In a list of issues polled including political reform, security, unemployment, and corruption among others, an overwhelming majority of respondents said the current government was either very likely (43 percent) or somewhat likely (39 percent) to deal with the issues mentioned. This suggests the Tunisian public has extremely high expectations about what the current interim government will accomplish.

- *Elections*

- o When IRI fielded this survey on March 5, constituent assembly elections had only been announced two days prior and the poll questionnaire had already been finalized; Tunisian media and political pundits previously believed that the first election to take place would be a presidential election. Thus, the poll asked respondents when they believed the presidential election would be held. Fifty-three percent of respondents surveyed believed a presidential election would occur in July 2011.

o Moreover, 58 percent indicated they believe July would be the right amount of time needed to organize a presidential election, while an additional 17 percent said July was not soon enough to hold the election. This compares with only 14 percent who felt July is too soon. These responses indicated Tunisians are focused on elections and want an election to occur in July 2011.

o Tunisians are also excited about the opportunity to take part in a democratic election. When asked if they would vote in an upcoming election, 95 percent said they were either very likely or likely to vote. Ninety-eight percent of Tunisians indicated they have a national identification card in the event this identification is used as a basis to establish eligible voters.

o Interestingly, the survey asked about whether the country's next president would be someone Tunisians had heard of, or someone they have not heard of. While 54 percent said the next president would be someone they had heard of, a significant number (37 percent) indicated the next president would be someone Tunisians had not heard of.

- *International Relations*

o Tunisia has long been an important trading partner with the European Union and Northern Africa, and 67 percent of respondents support further integration with the Union for the Mediterranean compared to only six percent against.

- *Information and Media*

o The survey asked where Tunisians turn for local news and information asking that they cite no more than three choices from a list. Television was the most frequent first response at 69 percent, radio was the next at 33 percent and newspapers were third at 25 percent.

o The traditional media sources of information contrast with the Internet which was the fourth most frequent place Tunisians turn to for local news and information. Not surprisingly, young people are more likely to get their news from the Internet with 37 percent of Tunisians ages 18-24 indicating they get news online. This compares with only six percent of the 44-54 year olds who gets information online.

Source: <http://www.iri.org/news-events-press-center/news/iri-releases-tunisia-poll>

167-2. Youth Revolts & Al-Jazeera Leaks Pose Threat to Hamas & Fateh

10 April 2011

Palestinian Public Opinion Poll No (39)

While youth revolts in the Arab World pose a threat to Hamas and its government in the Gaza Strip, al Jazeera leaks of PLO documents recording Palestinian-Israeli negotiations pose a threat to Fateh and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and the US use of its veto power against the UNSC resolution denouncing Israeli settlements destroys much of American credibility in the peace process

17-19 March 2011

These are the results of the latest poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR) in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip between 17-19 March 2011. The poll was conducted during a period of turmoil and revolt in the Arab World leading to regime change in Egypt and Tunisia. Moreover, the Palestinian areas witnessed demonstrations demanding end of the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Before that, al Jazeera satellite TV news station released leaked Palestinian documents pertaining to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. These documents were leaked from the PLO negotiations department. During the same period, the US used its veto power to block a UNSC resolution condemning Israeli settlements' activities. In the settlement of Itamar, near Nablus, a family of five was killed. This press release covers issues related to the events in the Arab World, the leaks on al Jazeera,

Palestinian domestic conditions, the performance of the governments of Salam Fayyad and Ismail Haniyeh, the internal balance of power between Fateh and Hamas, the future of reconciliation and reunification, the views of the public on the most vital Palestinian goals and the most serious problems confronting Palestinians today, the peace process and the impact of the Arab youth demonstrations on it, and the Itamar attack. Total size of the sample is 1270 adults interviewed face to face in 127 randomly selected locations. Margin of error is 3%.

Main Findings:

Findings of the first quarter of 2010 highlight a number of internal developments that came in response to external events. Three of the most significant events of the period under consideration were the publication of PLO documents related to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, the eruption of youth demonstrations in the Arab World demanding regime change in their countries, and the US use of its veto power to block a settlements' related UNSC resolution. Palestinians were affected differently by these events. For example, the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its leadership were negatively affected by al Jazeera leaks as findings show a decrease in support for Fateh and a similar decrease in the level of satisfaction with the performance of president Mahmud Abbas. Several factors led to this outcome: al Jazeera remains the most watched TV news station in the Palestinian areas and the most credible one. While the PA leadership in the West Bank defended itself by accusing al Jazeera of conspiring against it, a large majority of Palestinians believed that al Jazeera goal was to seek the truth and not to conspire against the PA. Moreover, in responding to the leaks, the PA's case remained unconvincing in the eyes of a large majority of Palestinians. Above all else, and based on the leaks, half of the public concluded that the PA's negotiating position was not committed to the vital goals and interests of the Palestinian people.

By contrast, the events in the Arab World and particularly the youth demonstrations seem to pose a threat to Hamas in the Gaza Strip rather than to Fateh in the West Bank. For example, findings show that two thirds of Gazans believe that there is a need for demonstrations in the Gaza Strip demanding regime change in the Strip. More seriously for Hamas, half of Gazans indicate that they might participate in such demonstrations. In the West Bank, the picture is different: only one third believes there is a need to demonstrate and demand West Bank regime change and only one quarter indicate willingness to participate in such demonstrations. Findings also show that if demonstrations were to erupt in the Gaza Strip, demands and slogans will focus not only on ending the West Bank-Gaza Strip split, but also on the absence of freedoms. By contrast, if demonstrations erupt in the West Bank, demands and slogans will focus on the two issues of ending the split and ending occupation. It is worth noting that findings show that the Palestinian public expects the developments in the Arab World to have a positive impact on the prospects for opening the Rafah crossing with Egypt on permanent basis. But a large majority does not expect Palestinian demonstrations similar to those in the Arab World would lead to end of occupation or end of settlement activities.

Finally, findings show that the US use of its veto power to block UNSC resolution condemning settlement activities has dealt a severe blow to Palestinian public readiness to accept a large US role in the peace process. The poll found that the percentage of those in favor of such US role has decreased considerably to a small minority; in previous surveys, large majority favored a greater US intervention in the peace process.

(1) Youth demonstrations in the Arab World and in Palestine:

- 92% sympathize with demonstrators in the Arab World and two thirds expect this development to have a positive impact on Palestinian conditions
 - 36% of West Bankers support West Bank demonstrations to change the regime and 24% are ready to participate in such demonstrations
 - 67% of Gazans support demonstrations in the Gaza Strip that would seek to change the regime and 50% are ready to participate in these demonstrations
 - 51% prefer the slogan that calls for "people want to end the split" and 24% favor "people want to end the occupation"

An overwhelming majority of 92% sympathizes with the demonstrators in Arab countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen; 7% do not sympathize with Arab demonstrators. 41% believe that the first basic demand of the demonstrators in Egypt is to end the state of poverty and unemployment, 38% believe it is freedom from oppression of the ruling regime, 11% believe it is to end corruption, 5% believe it is to replace the Egyptian regime with an Islamist one, and 3% believe the demonstrators want to express opposition to Egypt's pro Western policies. About two thirds (64%) expect the developments in the Arab World to have a positive impact on Palestinian conditions, 17% believe they will have a negative impact, and 15% believe they will have no impact.

Two thirds (66%) expect the fall of the Mubarak regime in Egypt to lead to permanent opening of the Rafah international crossing with Egypt and 27% do not expect that. But a majority of 54% believes the chances for the establishment of a Palestinian state next to the state of Israel in the next five years will not change as a result of the developments in the Arab World, 21% believe such chances will increase and 23% believe the chances will decrease.

47% of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip believe that there is a need for similar demonstrations in the *West Bank* demanding regime change and 50% believe no need exists. The percentage of the belief that there is a need for demonstrations in the West Bank similar to those in the Arab World increases in the Gaza Strip (64%) compared to only 36% in the West Bank, among the youth, 18-27 years old, (54%) compared to those over 47 years old (41%), among supporters of Hamas (72%) compared to supporters of Fateh (28%), among supporters of other parties and those who do not wish to participate in future elections (46% each), and among the those who define themselves as religious (52%) compared to those who define themselves as "somewhat religious" (41%).

By contrast, 52% of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip believe there is a need for similar demonstrations in the *Gaza Strip* demanding regime change in that area and 40% believe no need exists. The percentage of the belief that there is a need for demonstrations in the Gaza Strip similar to those in the Arab World increases in the Gaza Strip (67%) compared to the West Bank (43%), among the youth, 18-27 years old (62%) compared to those over 47 years old (38%), among supporters of Fateh (71%) and supporters of third parties (70%), nonaffiliated (50%), those who do not wish to participate in future elections (46%) compared to supporters of Hamas (27%), and among supporters of the peace process (57%) compared to those who are opposed to the peace process (37%), and among those who are "somewhat religious" (57%) compared to those who are "religious" (45%).

When asked about their possible participation in such regime-change demonstrations in their respective areas, major differences emerged between West Bankers and Gazans: while 50% of Gazans are ready to participate in demonstrations to demand regime change in the Gaza Strip, only 24% of West Bankers are ready to participate in demonstrations demanding regime change

in PA in the West Bank. In the West Bank, the desire to participate in demonstrations to change the regime in the West Bank increases among the youth, 18-27 years old (34%) compared to those over 47 years old (17%). In the Gaza Strip, the desire to participate in demonstrations demanding regime change in the Gaza Strip increases among the youth, 18-27 years old (61%) compared to those over 47 years old (25%).

When asked about the most preferred slogan to raise in Palestinian demonstrations, a majority of 51% opted for “people want to end the split,” followed by “people want to end occupation” (24%), and “people want to end corruption” (14%). Four other slogans received 2% each: “people want to end negotiations,” “people want to end Oslo,” “people want an end to security coordination,” and “people want to return to the intifada.” In the West Bank, the slogan “people want to end the occupation” (29%) comes second to ending the split (46%).

(2) Al Jazeera Publishes leaked PLO negotiations’ documents:

79% believe all or some of what al Jazeera has leaked regarding Palestinian-Israeli negotiations; only 19% believe none of it

- 49% believe Palestinian negotiators had not been committed to the goals and interests of the Palestinian people and 44% believe they had been
- 59% are convinced that in releasing the documents, al Jazeera sought to uncover the truth and 62% are not convinced by the PA's response to al Jazeera leaks

78% say they have seen or heard, on al Jazeera or other media outlets, about leaked documents published by al Jazeera news TV channel. 79% believe in the truthfulness of all or some of what has been published by al Jazeera regarding concessions made by Palestinian negotiators and 19% do not believe any of it. About half (49%) believes that the Palestinian negotiating position, as revealed by al Jazeera, was not committed to vital Palestinian goals and interests and 44% believe it has been committed to vital goals and interests. The belief that the PA was committed to vital Palestinian interests and goals increases in the Gaza Strip (49%) compared to the West Bank (41%), among supporters of Fateh (78%) compared to supporters of Hamas (13%) as well as supporters of third parties (40%) the nonaffiliated and those who will not participate in future elections (36% and 35%), and among the "somewhat religious" (49%) compared to the "religious" (38%), and among students (61%) compared to laborers and merchants (37% and 27% respectively), and among those working in the public sector (51%) compared to those working in the private sector (36%).

A majority of 59% believes that the goal of al Jazeera in publishing the leaked documents was to uncover the truth, but 36% believe the aim was to conspire against the Palestinian leadership. Percentage of those who believe that the goal of al Jazeera was to uncover the truth increases in the West Bank (63%) compared to the Gaza Strip (54%), among women (63%) compared to men (57%), among supporters of Hamas (95%) compared to supporters of Fateh (27%), among the "religious" (71%) compared to the "somewhat religious" (51%), and among those who work in the private sector (65%) compared to those who work in the public sector (49%).

A majority of 62% believes that the PA response to al Jazeera leaks of the negotiations’ documents was not convincing and 33% believe it was convincing. Percentage of those who believe that the PA response was not convincing increases in the West Bank (67%) compared to the Gaza Strip (54%), among those whose age is over 47 years old (74%) compared to those between the ages of 18-27 (56%), and among supporters of Hamas and those who do not wish to participate in future elections, the nonaffiliated, and supporters of third parties (89%, 70%, 65%, and 64% respectively) compared to supporters of Fateh (34%).

(3) Domestic Conditions

- 21% describe conditions in the Gaza Strip as good or very good and 33% describe conditions in the West Bank as good or very good
- 70% believe there is corruption in the PA institutions in the West Bank and 59% believe there is corruption in the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip
- 65% believe that there is, or there is to some extent, free press in the West Bank and the percentage regarding the Gaza Strip is 46%
- 33% believe that people in the West Bank can criticize the PA without fear and only 19% believe that people in the Gaza Strip can criticize the authorities there without fear
- Perception of personal safety and security stands at 54% in the West Bank and 67% in the Gaza Strip
- Positive evaluation of the performance of the Haniyeh government stands at 31% and 39% for the Fayyad government; 23% say Haniyeh's government is the legitimate one and 25% say Fayyad's government is the legitimate one
- Satisfaction with the performance of President Abbas stands at 46% and dissatisfaction at 51%

21% describe conditions in the Gaza Strip as good or very good and 56% describe them as bad or very bad. In our last poll, three months ago, in December 2010, 17% described conditions in the Gaza Strip as good or very good and 62% said they were bad or very bad. By contrast, 33% describe conditions in the West Bank as good or very good and 33% describe them as bad or very bad. Three months ago, these percentages stood at 35% and 31% respectively. 70% say there is corruption in the PA institutions in the West Bank while only 59% say there is corruption in the institutions of the dismissed government in the Gaza Strip. These percentages are similar to those obtained three months ago. 65% say there is, or there is to some extent, press freedom in the West Bank and 31% say there is no such freedom in the West Bank. By contrast, 46% say there is, or there is to some extent, press freedom in the Gaza Strip while 42% say there is no such freedom in the Gaza Strip.

33% say people in the West Bank can criticize the authority in the West Bank without fear. By contrast, only 19% say people in the Gaza Strip can criticize the authorities in Gaza without fear. These findings reflect an improvement in the situation in the West Bank and lack of change in the Gaza Strip. Since the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in June 2007, these percentages have witnessed gradual and significant decrease. As the table below shows, belief that people can criticize the authorities in the West Bank without fear stood at 56% while 52% believed that people can criticize the authorities without fear in the Gaza Strip.

Table: Gradual decrease in belief about the ability to criticize authorities in the West Bank or Gaza Strip since the spilt between the two areas

Date	Ability to criticize authorities in the West Bank	Ability to criticize authorities in the Gaza Strip
March 2011	33%	19%
December 2010	27%	19%
September 2010	30%	24%
March 2009	37%	29%
August 2008	47%	42%

September 2007	56%	52%
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Perception of safety and security stands at 54% in the West Bank and 67% in the Gaza Strip. Positive evaluation of the performance of the governments of Ismail Haniyeh stands at 31% and Salam Fayyad's at 39%. Three months ago, these percentages stood at 36% and 43% respectively. Findings show that the percentage of Gazans who say that political, security, and economic conditions force them to seek immigration to other countries stands at 37%; in the West Bank, the percentage stands at 21%.

Percentage of satisfaction with the performance of President Abbas stands at 46% while 51% say they are dissatisfied with his performance. These percentages reflect a decrease in the level of satisfaction with the performance of the president, which stood at 50% three months ago while the level of dissatisfaction stood at 45%. Satisfaction with the performance of the president stands at 39% in the Gaza Strip and 51% in the West Bank. 23% say the government of Haniyeh is the legitimate Palestinian government and 25% say the Fayyad government is the legitimate one. 37% say both governments are illegitimate. These results indicate a decrease in the percentage of those who view the Fayyad government as legitimate.

(4) West Bank-Gaza Strip split and how to end it:

A majority of 52% opposes and 43% support Fayyad's proposal to end the West Bank-Gaza Strip split

- A majority of 62% blames Fateh and Hamas together for the continuation of the split
- A decrease in the percentage of the belief that the split is permanent show a drop from 39% three months ago to 21% in this poll
 - 43% believe that ending the split requires "regime change" in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
 - To end the split, 33% support, and 61% oppose, Abbas' acceptance of Hamas conditions for reconciliation even if this leads to the return of international boycott and sanctions
 - By contrast, to end the split, 47% support and 46% oppose Hamas' acceptance of existing agreements with Israel

A majority of 52% opposes and 43% support Salam Fayyad's proposal to end the West Bank-Gaza Strip split by an immediate unification of the two areas, the formation of a national unity government under the premiership of a prime minister acceptable to Fateh and Hamas, and the maintenance of the status quo regarding security conditions in the Gaza Strip (under Hamas's control) and the West Bank (under Fateh). Support for the Fayyad proposal stands at 45% in the West Bank compared to 39% in the Gaza Strip. Fateh and Hamas together are responsible for the continuation of the split as seen by 62% of the public, but 15% blame Hamas alone and 15% blame Fateh alone. But when asked about the future of the split if Hamas won new presidential and parliamentary elections, 46% said it would be consolidated, but in a scenario in which Fateh would win such elections, only 25% said the split would, as a result, be consolidated.

After the events in Egypt and the cessation of the Egyptian role in Fateh-Hamas reconciliation, 21% believe that unity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will resume soon, 50% believe unity will resume but only after a long time, and 21% believe that unity will never return. These results reflect a significant decrease in the percentage of those who believe that the split is permanent (which stood at 39% three months ago), perhaps due to the increased

public and youth demonstrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip demanding an end to the split.

In order to end the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 43% believe that the regimes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should fall, while 16% believe that ending the split requires the downfall of the regime in the Gaza Strip only, and 15% believe it requires the downfall of the regime in the West Bank only. 18% believe that ending the split does not require the downfall of either regime.

In order to end the split, 33% support and 61% oppose a proposal whereby president Abbas would accept Hamas conditions for unification even if such a step would lead to the return of international sanctions and boycott. Findings show that 69% view such a step by the president as posing a threat to their own interests and those of the Palestinian people. A majority of 52% believe the chances for the president to take such a step are small or very small while 42% believe chances are high or medium. Support for Abbas' acceptance of Hamas conditions as a way to end the split increases in the Gaza Strip (37%) compared to the West Bank (31%), among those over 47 years old (38%) compared to those between the ages of 18-27 (32%), among supporters of Hamas (56%) compared to supporters of Fateh (23%), among those opposed to the peace process (52%) compared to those who support the peace process (29%), and among the "religious" (43%) compared to the "somewhat religious" (25%).

By contrast, a larger percentage (47%) supports and 46% oppose a different proposal whereby Hamas would end the split by accepting international conditions imposed after it won the elections back in 2006, including accepting peace agreements with Israel. The lesser opposition to this proposal than to the previous one seems to be due to the fact that a much lower percentage (43%) perceive such Hamas shift as a threat to their interests or to the interests of the Palestinian people. But as in the previous proposal, 53% believe the chances Hamas would take such an initiative are small or very small and only 41% believe the chances are high or medium. Support for a Hamas initiative to accept agreements with Israel as the means to end the split increases in the West Bank (49%) compared to the Gaza Strip (45%), among men (50%) compared to women (46%), among those between the ages of 18-27 (49%) compared to those over 47 years old (40%), among supporters of Fateh (67%) compared to supporters of Hamas (25%), among supporters of the peace process (55%) compared to those who oppose the peace process (23%), and among the "somewhat religious" (52%) compared to the "religious" (39%).

(5) Presidency and Legislative Elections:

- If new presidential elections were to take place today, Abbas would receive 55%, Haniyeh 38%; and if the competition was between Marwan Barghouti and Haniyeh, the former would receive 64% and the latter 31%
- For vice president, Marwan Barghouti receives 30% while 18% select Ismail Haniyeh, 14% select Salam Fayyad, and 11% select Mustafa Barghouti
- If new parliamentary elections were to take place today, Fateh would receive 40%, Hamas 26%, all other lists combined 12%, and 22% are undecided
- 51% believe that Hamas is opposed to holding new parliamentary and presidential elections due to its perception that it cannot work freely and 37% believe it is fear of losing the elections

If new presidential elections are held today, and only two were nominated, Abbas would receive the vote of 55% and Haniyeh 38% of the vote of those participating. The rate of participation in such election would reach 58%. These results are similar to those obtained in

our previous poll three months ago. In the Gaza Strip, Abbas receives in this poll 53% and Haniyeh 42% and in the West Bank Abbas receives 56% and Haniyeh 35%. If the presidential elections were between Marwan Barghouti and Ismail Haniyeh, the former would receive 64% and the latter would receive 31% of the participants' votes. The rate of participation in this case would reach 67%. In the Gaza Strip, Barghouti receives 59% and Haniyeh 36% and in the West Bank Barghouti receives 66% and Haniyeh 28%. These results are similar to those obtained three months ago. Most popular figures selected by the public as possible vice presidents from a list of five provided to respondents are Marwan Barghouti (selected by 30% of the public), Ismail Haniyeh (18%), Salam Fayyad (14%) Mustafa Barghouti (11%) and Saeb Erekat (2%). These percentages are similar to those obtained by PSR three months ago.

If new legislative elections are held today with the participation of all factions, 71% say they would participate in such elections. Of those who would participate, 26% say they would vote for Hamas and 40% say they would vote for Fateh, 12% would vote for all other third parties combined, and 22% are undecided. These results are similar to those obtained three months ago with the exception of the likely vote for Fateh which dropped by four percentage points. Vote for Hamas increases in the Gaza Strip (33%) compared to the West Bank (21%) and among women (28%) compared to men (23%). Vote for Fateh is higher in the Gaza Strip (42%) than in the West Bank (39%), and among men (43%) compared to women (38%). Support for Hamas increases also among those over 38 years old reaching 32% and decreases among those between 18-27 years old to 20%. Fateh's popularity is higher among those between 18-27 years old (44%) compared to those over 38 years old (36%). Hamas is more popular among the "religious" (42%) compared to the "somewhat religious" (15%). Fateh is more popular among the "somewhat religious" (47%) compared to the "religious" (31%). Hamas is more popular among housewives and laborers (30% each) and less popular among students (18%). Fateh is more popular among employees and students (50% and 49% respectively) and less popular among laborers and retired persons (32% and 22% respectively).

46% believe that if presidential and parliamentary elections were to be held today, Fateh would win and only 16% believe Hamas would win while 22% believe other factions will win. 51% believe that the reason Hamas is opposed to holding parliamentary and presidential elections today is due to Hamas' belief that it is not allowed to operate freely in the West Bank or because it believes such elections would not be fair or free, while 37% believe that the reason behind Hamas' opposition to elections is fear of losing them.

(6) Local elections:

60% evaluate the performance of their local councils during the last five years as good or very good

- 51% believe that the upcoming local elections in July will be fair and 38% believe it will not be fair
- 47% believe that holding local elections in the West Bank will lead to the consolidation of the split; despite this, 61% of the West Bankers say they will participate in those elections

60% evaluate the performance of their local councils during the past five years as good or very good and 34% as bad or very bad. 51% believe that the upcoming July local elections will be fair and 38% believe they will not be fair. 47% believe the holding of local elections will consolidate the split and 20% believe it contributes positively to reconciliation while 28% believe that it will have no effect on reconciliation. 46% believe that Fateh will win the

upcoming local elections, and 13% believe candidates from the left and independents will win the elections and 20% believe family candidates will be the winners. 61% of the West Bankers say they will participate in the local elections and 35% say they will not participate.

(7) Most vital Palestinian goals and the main problems confronting Palestinians today:

- 45% believe that the first most vital goal for the Palestinian people should be to end the occupation and build an independent state; 27% say it should be to insure the right of return, 17% say it should be to build a pious or moral individual and society, and 10% say it should be to build a democratic political system

- 28% say the most serious problem confronting Palestinian society today is the spread of poverty and unemployment, another 28% say it is the absence of national unity due to the split, 22% say it is the continuation of occupation and settlement expansion, 11% say it is corruption, and 8% say it is the blockade of the Gaza Strip

The largest percentage (45%) believes that the *first* most vital Palestinian goal should be to end Israeli occupation in the areas occupied in 1967 and build a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital. By contrast, 27% believe the first most vital goal should be to obtain the right of return for refugees to their 1948 towns and villages, 17% believe that it should be to build a pious or moral individual and a religious society, one that applies all Islamic teachings, and 10% believe that the first and most vital goal should be to establish a democratic political system that respects freedoms and rights of Palestinians.

The largest percentage (38%) believes that the *second* most vital Palestinian goal should be to obtain the right of return for refugees to their 1948 towns and villages. 25% believe that the second goal should be to establish a democratic political system that respects freedoms and rights of Palestinians, 22% believe that the second goal should be to end Israeli occupation in the areas occupied in 1967 and build a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital, and 15% believe the second most vital goal should be to build a pious or moral individual and a religious society, one that applies all Islamic teachings.

The most serious problem confronting Palestinian society today is the spread of poverty and unemployment in the eyes of 28% of the public while a similar percentage believes the most serious problem is the absence of national unity due to the West Bank-Gaza Strip split, 22% believe the most serious problem is the continuation of occupation and settlement activities, 11% believe it to be the corruption in some public institutions, and 8% believe it is the siege and the closure of the Gaza border crossings.

(8) The peace process:

- A majority of 69% prefers to have the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, rather than the Gaza border crossings with Israel, open for movement of goods on permanent basis; 27% prefer the opposite

- 32% support and 63% oppose the attack in the Itamar settlement

- After the US veto in the UNSC, 69% oppose a large American role in the peace process

- 56% support and 41% oppose the Arab Peace Initiative

- 48% support and 50% oppose a Palestinian-Israeli mutual recognition of national identity

- In the absence of negotiations, 33% prefer going to the UNSC while 25% prefer return to armed confrontations, 18% prefer non violent peaceful confrontations, and 17% prefer dissolving the PA

- Palestinian attempt to go to the UNSC for recognition of statehood will be met by a US veto according to 75% of the public
- A unilateral declaration of statehood will change conditions for the better in the eyes of only 24%
- Peaceful popular revolution against occupation and settlements will succeed in ending occupation and stopping settlement expansion in the eyes of only 31%
- Two thirds believe that the chances for the establishment of a Palestinian state next to the state of Israel in the next five years are slim or non-existent
- 70% are worried that they or members of their families will be hurt at the hands of Israelis in their daily life or that their land will be confiscated or homes demolished
- 60% believe that Israel's long term goal is to extend its state to the whole area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River and to expel its Palestinian population while 21% believe the goal is to annex the West Bank and to deny political rights to its population. Only 17% believe that Israel's long term goal is to ensure its security and to withdraw from all or parts of the West Bank.

In the context of youth demonstrations in the Arab World and the possible opening of the Rafah crossing with Egypt, we asked respondents whether they prefer to have the Rafah crossing opened for the movement of goods on permanent basis even if that led to the closure of Israeli-Gazan crossings for goods. Findings show that a big majority of 69% prefers and 27% do not prefer to have the Rafah crossing with Egypt open for goods on permanent basis over the opening of the Israeli goods' crossings with the Gaza Strip on permanent basis. The percentage of those preferring to have the Rafah crossing with Egypt open for goods on permanent basis stands in the West Bank at 73% compared to 63% in the Gaza Strip. The percentage increases among supporters of Hamas (83%) compared to supporters of Fateh (61%), and among those opposed to the peace process (78%) compared to supporters of the peace process (67%).

We also asked about attitudes regarding the attack in the settlement of Itamar which took place just before the conduct of the poll and led to the death of a family of five. The poll found that 63% opposed the attack while 32% supported it. The percentage of support for the attack increases in the Gaza Strip (51%) compared to the West Bank (20%), among those between the ages of 18-37 years old (37%) compared to those over 37 years old (26%), among supporters of Hamas (51%) compared to supporters of Fateh (23%), among those opposed to the peace process (46%) compared to supporters of the peace process (28%), among the "religious" (37%) compared to the "somewhat religious" (28%), and among students (35%) compared to laborers (26%).

Despite the relatively large majority-opposition to the Itamar attack, 45% believe that if peace negotiations do not resume and if armed confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis erupts, it will help achieve national rights in ways that negotiations could not; 49% do not share this view.

Findings show that in the aftermath of the US veto against the UNSC resolution condemning settlement activities, a majority of 58% opposes a return in the future to the UNSC for a similar resolution. Furthermore, a large majority of 69% expresses opposition to a larger US role in the peace process. In our August 2009 poll, a majority of 61% indicated support for a larger US role in the peace process.

A majority of 56% support and 41% oppose the Arab Peace Initiative which calls for Israeli withdrawal to the line of 1967, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the resolution of the refugee problem based on UN resolution 194 in return for an Arab recognition of Israel and

normalization of relations with it. Support for this initiative stood at 54% and opposition at 42% in our last poll in December 2010. Findings also show that 48% support and 50% oppose a mutual recognition of national identity with Palestinians recognizing Israel as the state for the Jewish people and Israelis recognizing Palestine as the state for the Palestinian people after all issues of the conflict have been settled and after a Palestinian state has been established. These figures are similar to those obtained in our last poll in December 2010. In light of the cessation of negotiations with Israel, the public is divided over the best means for ending occupation: 33% prefer to go to the UNSC to obtain recognition of a Palestinian state while 25% prefer return to confrontations and armed attacks against Israel, 18% prefer peaceful, non violent, confrontations, and 17% prefer the dissolution of the PA.

Yet, if the Palestinian side decides to go to the UNSC in order to obtain recognition of a Palestinian state, 75% believe that the US will veto such resolution. Moreover, if the Palestinian side is to unilaterally declare independent statehood around the end of 2011, 41% say current conditions in the Palestinian areas will not change while 24% say things will change for the better and 32% say things will change to the worst. If a peaceful popular revolution against occupation is to take place in the West Bank, emulating peaceful popular revolutions in Arab countries like Egypt and Tunisia, such a revolution will be able to end occupation and stop settlement expansion in the eyes of 31% while 66% say it will not be able to do so.

Two thirds believe that the chances for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel in the next five years are slim or non existent while 32% believe them to be medium or high. Moreover findings show that an overwhelming majority of 70% is worried that they or members of their families would be hurt by Israelis in their daily life or that their land would be confiscated or homes demolished; 30% say they are not worried. Percentage of worry stands at 72% in the Gaza Strip compared to 69% in the West Bank. When asked about their perception of Israel's long term goals, the largest percentage (60%) indicated that it is to extend its state to the whole area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River and to expel its Palestinian population while 21% indicated that the goal is to annex the West Bank and to deny political rights to its population. Only 17% believe that Israel's long term goal is to ensure its security and to withdraw from all or parts of the West Bank. We found little differences between West Bankers and Gazans in their assessment of Israel's long term goals.

PSR Poll No. 39
17-19 March 2011

		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
00)	From among the following satellite news stations, which one you watched most during the last two months?			
	1) Al Arabia	21.8	17.9	28.2
	2) Al Jazeera	52.4	59.1	41.4
	3) Al Hurra	0.5	0.1	1.0
	4) Al Manar	1.4	1.4	1.4
	5) Palestine TV	8.0	8.0	8.0
	6) Alaqsa	7.2	3.4	13.3
	7) Do not watch TV	6.0	6.5	5.1
	8) Others	1.7	2.0	1.2
	9) Do not have a	0.5	0.9	

	dish			
	10) DK/NA	0.5	0.7	0.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
01)	In general, how would you describe conditions of the Palestinians in the Palestinian areas in Gaza Strip these days?			
	1) Very good	3.5	3.4	3.7
	2) Good	17.0	16.5	17.8
	3) So so	19.2	17.5	22.0
	4) Bad	36.8	39.7	32.1
	5) Very bad	18.7	15.2	24.4
	6) DK/NA	4.9	7.8	
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
02)	In general, how would you describe conditions of the Palestinians in the Palestinian areas in the West Bank these days?			
	1) Very good	5.7	5.7	5.6
	2) Good	27.1	27.2	26.9
	3) So so	31.3	31.4	31.2
	4) Bad	23.9	25.6	21.2
	5) Very bad	9.0	8.8	9.3
	6) DK/NA	3.0	1.3	5.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
03)	Generally, do you see yourself as:			
	1) Religious	43.5	39.8	49.5
	2) Somewhat religious	51.7	55.6	45.1
	3) Not religious	4.7	4.4	5.2
	4) DK/NA	0.2	0.1	0.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
04)	Generally, do you see yourself as:			
	1) Supportive of the peace process	66.0	65.6	66.8
	2) Opposed to the peace process	17.1	16.9	17.5
	3) Between support and opposition	15.4	15.4	15.5
	4) DK/NA	1.4	2.1	0.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
M1)	Do you think that there is corruption in PA institutions under the control of President Abu Mazin?			
	1) Yes	70.2	71.2	68.7
	2) No	18.6	16.6	22.1
	3) DK-NA	11.1	12.3	9.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip

M1 -1)	Do you think that there is corruption in PA institutions under the control of the dismissed government in the Gaza Strip?			
	1) Yes	59.0	56.5	63.1
	2) No	21.3	16.6	29.0
	3) DK-NA	19.8	26.9	8.0
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
M2)	In your view, is there a press freedom in the West Bank?			
	1) Yes	23.5	23.6	23.3
	2) To some extent	41.3	38.2	46.4
	3) No	30.9	33.5	26.7
	4) DK-NA	4.3	4.6	3.6
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
M2 -1)	In your view, is there a press freedom in the Gaza Strip?			
	1) Yes	14.2	12.5	17.0
	2) To some extent	31.6	25.7	41.3
	3) No	41.5	42.0	40.7
	4) DK-NA	12.7	19.8	1.0
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
M3)	In your view, can people in the West Bank today criticize the authority without fear?			
	1) Yes	32.6	33.8	30.5
	2) No	62.6	62.2	63.4
	3) DK-NA	4.8	4.0	6.1
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
M3 -1)	In your view, can people in the Gaza Strip today criticize the authority without fear?			
	1) Yes	19.4	21.3	16.3
	2) No	69.2	62.4	80.4
	3) DK-NA	11.4	16.3	3.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
M1 0)	Would you say that these days your security and safety, and that of your family, is assured or not assured?			
	1) Completely assured	8.6	5.7	13.5
	2) Assured	50.3	48.6	53.2
	3) Not assured	35.5	39.5	28.9
	4) Not assured at all	5.5	6.3	4.2
	5) DK/NA	0.1		0.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip

05)	Do current political, security, and economic conditions lead you to seek emigration abroad?			
	1) Certainly seek to emigrate	9.3	6.0	14.8
	2) Seek emigration	17.4	14.6	22.0
	3) Do not seek emigration	35.2	34.4	36.4
	4) Certainly do not seek emigration	37.8	44.9	26.0
	5) DK/NA	0.4	0.1	0.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
06)	Tell us how do you evaluate the performance of the dismissed government of Ismail Haniyeh in the Gaza Strip? Is it good or bad?			
	1) Very good	8.7	7.3	10.8
	2) Good	22.5	22.7	22.2
	3) So so	28.6	24.6	35.2
	4) Bad	19.7	18.4	22.0
	5) Very bad	7.3	6.0	9.3
	6) DK/NA	13.2	21.0	0.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
07)	Tell us how do you evaluate the performance of the government headed by Salam Fayyad ? Is it good or bad?			
	1) Very good	6.4	7.7	4.2
	2) Good	32.7	34.1	30.4
	3) So so	31.5	29.2	35.5
	4) Bad	16.3	14.3	19.5
	5) Very bad	6.7	6.4	7.4
	6) DK/NA	6.4	8.4	3.0
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
08)	Are you satisfied or not satisfied with the performance of Mahmud Abbas since his election as president of the PA?			
	1) very satisfied	5.8	6.1	5.3
	2) satisfied	40.5	44.6	33.6
	3) not satisfied	37.9	35.1	42.6
	4) not satisfied at all	13.2	10.8	17.1
	5) DK/NA	2.6	3.4	1.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
09)	If new presidential elections are to take place today, and Mahmud Abbas was nominated by Fatehand Ismail Haniyeh was nominated by Hamas, whom would you vote for?			
	1) Mahmoud Ab bas	54.8	56.0	53.1

	2) Ismael Haniyyah	37.8	34.9	41.8
	4) DK/NA	7.5	9.2	5.1
	Total		West bank	Gaza Strip
10)	And if the competition was between Marwan Barghouti representing Fateh and Ismail Haniyeh representing Hamas, whom would you vote for?			
	1) Marwan Barghouti	63.5	66.2	59.4
	2) Ismael Haniyyah	31.4	28.2	36.0
	4) DK/NA	5.2	5.6	4.6
	Total		West bank	Gaza Strip
11)	If you were to select a vice president, whom would you select from among the following list of candidates?			
	1) Ismail Haniyeh	18.0	15.5	22.2
	2) Salam Fayyad	13.9	14.6	12.7
	3) Marwan Barghouti	30.3	29.1	32.3
	4) Mustafa Barghouti	10.5	11.2	9.5
	5) Saeb Erekat	2.2	1.9	2.7
	6) Others	7.5	8.4	5.8
	7) DK/NA	17.6	19.3	14.9
	Total		West bank	Gaza Strip
13)	If new elections agreed to by all factions are held today and the same lists that took part in the last PLC elections were nominated, for whom would you vote?			
	1) Alternative	1.0	0.7	1.4
	2) Independent Palestine	4.7	5.8	2.9
	3) Abu Ali Mustafa	4.3	4.8	3.6
	4) Abu al Abbas	0.1		0.3
	5) Freedom and social justice	0.3	0.4	0.2
	6) Change and reform	25.5	20.7	32.9
	7) National coalition for justice and democ	0.1		0.2
	8) Third way(headed by salamfayyad)	1.5	2.1	0.7

	9) Freedom and independence	0.4	0.4	0.3
	10) Palestinian justice	0.1		0.3
	11) Fateh	40.2	38.9	42.1
	12) None of the above/ DK/NA/ Do not remember	21.9	26.2	15.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
14)	After the separation between Gaza and the West Bank, Hamas and the government of IsmailHaniyeh remained in power in Gaza and considered itself the legitimate government while president Abu Mazin formed a new government headed by Salam Fayyad followed by a new government headed by Fayyad and it too considered itself legitimate. What about you, which of the two governments you consider legitimate, the government of Haniyeh or the government of AbuMazin and Fayyad?			
	1) Haniyehs' government is the legitimate one	22.5	22.1	23.3
	2) Abu Mazin's and Fayyad government is the legitimate one	24.7	23.6	26.4
	3) Both governments are legitimate	9.5	11.9	5.5
	4) Both governments are not legitimate	37.4	35.2	41.1
	5) DK/NA	5.9	7.2	3.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
15)	In your view who is responsible for the continued split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? Hamas or Fateh?			
	1) Hamas	15.1	12.0	20.1
	2) Fateh	15.2	14.1	17.0
	3) Both	62.3	63.9	59.7
	4) Neither side	2.9	3.6	1.8
	5) Other (specify ---)	2.6	3.8	0.6
	6) DK/NA	1.9	2.7	0.7
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
16)	If Hamas wins next legislative and president elections, will this in your view lead to the lifting or to tightening of the international boycott of the Palestinian government?			
	1) Will lead to	8.7	8.7	8.6

	the lifting of the boycott			
	2) Will lead to the tightening of the boycott	62.2	62.4	61.8
	3) Conditions will stay as they are today	22.5	20.1	26.5
	4) DK/NA	6.6	8.7	3.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
17)	And what about the unity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? Will a Hamas victory in the next legislative and presidential elections lead to consolidation of unity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or will it lead to consolidating the split between the two areas?			
	1) Will lead to consolidation of WBGS unity	17.1	19.4	13.1
	2) Will lead to consolidation of WBGS split	46.4	45.5	47.7
	3) Conditions of WBGS will stay as they are today	29.6	26.3	35.0
	4) DK/NA	7.0	8.7	4.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
18)	And what if Fateh wins new legislative and president elections, will this in your view lead to the lifting or to tightening of the international boycott of the Palestinian government?			
	1) Will lead to the lifting of the boycott	52.6	40.5	72.6
	2) Will lead to the tightening of the boycott	10.5	11.5	8.7
	3) Conditions will stay as they are today	32.7	42.6	16.2
	4) DK/NA	4.3	5.4	2.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
19)	And what about the unity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? Will a Fateh victory in the next legislative and presidential elections lead to consolidation of unity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or will it lead to consolidating the split between the two areas?			
	1) Will lead to consolidation of	33.0	29.0	39.6

	WBGS unity			
	2) Will lead to consolidation of WBGS split	25.2	25.1	25.4
	3) Conditions of WBGS will stay as they are today	36.3	39.8	30.6
	4) DK/NA	5.4	6.0	4.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
20)	The Palestinian society confronts today various problems, like the continuation of occupation and settlements, the spread of unemployment and poverty, the lack of national unity due to the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the continuation of the siege and blockade of the Gaza Strip and the closure of its border crossings, the spread of corruption in public institutions, and others. Tell us, what in your opinion, is the problem you see as the most fundamental, the one that must be on the top priority of the Palestinian Authority?			
	1) Continuation of occupation and settlements,	22.0	23.8	19.2
	2) Spread of unemployment and poverty	27.5	32.4	19.5
	3) Lack of national unity due to the split between the West	28.3	19.7	42.6
	4) Continuation of the siege and blockade of the Gaza Strip	8.0	5.1	12.8
	5) The spread of corruption in public institutions	11.3	15.5	4.5
	88)DK/NA	0.9	0.6	1.4
	99)Other	1.8	3.0	
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
21-1)	From among the following vital national goals, which in your view should the first most important one and which should be the second most important goal that the Palestinian people should strive to achieve? The first is:			
	1. Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the establishment of a Palestinian state in	45.4	41.2	52.2

	the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital			
	2. Obtain the right of return to refuges to their 1948 towns and villages	27.2	26.8	27.8
	3. Establish a democratic political system that respects freedoms and rights of Palestinians	10.3	12.1	7.4
	4. Build a pious or moral individual and a religious society, one that applies all Islamic teachings	17.1	20.0	12.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
21-2)	From among the following vital national goals, which in your view should the first most important one and which should be the second most important goal that the Palestinian people should strive to achieve? The second is:			
	1) Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the establishm	22.4	24.0	19.9
	2) Obtain the right of return to refuges to their 1948 towns	37.8	37.4	38.5
	3) Establish a democratic political system that respectsfre	25.1	24.0	27.0
	4) Build a pious or moral individual and a religious society	14.6	14.6	14.6
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
22)	Now after the latest events in Egypt and the cessation of talk about the Egyptian role in Palestinian reconciliation, what are your expectations for the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?			
	1) Unity will resume in the near	20.8	19.9	22.3

	future			
	2) Unity will resume but will take a long time	50.4	52.1	47.7
	3) Unity will not resume and two separate entities will emerge	21.2	21.9	20.2
	4) DK/NA	7.6	6.2	9.9
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
23)	Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?			
23-1)	The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank respect freedoms and does not impose press censorship			
	1) Certainly agree	7.0	5.2	9.9
	2) Agree	38.5	37.7	39.7
	3) Disagree	37.1	40.5	31.5
	4) Certainly Disagree	9.9	8.6	12.0
	5) DK/NA	7.6	8.0	6.9
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
23-2)	The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank does not respect rule of law			
	1) Certainly agree	5.9	5.1	7.2
	2) Agree	33.2	34.9	30.3
	3) Disagree	44.9	45.7	43.4
	4) Certainly Disagree	9.2	7.2	12.4
	5) DK/NA	7.0	7.1	6.7
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
23-3)	The Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip respect freedoms and does not impose press censorship			
	1) Certainly agree	3.7	2.7	5.4
	2) Agree	25.0	22.7	28.8
	3) Disagree	43.2	42.4	44.5
	4) Certainly Disagree	11.5	8.8	16.1
	5) DK/NA	16.5	23.5	5.1
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
23-4)	The Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip does not respect rule of law			
	1) Certainly	8.8	6.3	12.8

	agree			
	2) Agree	32.9	31.3	35.5
	3) Disagree	33.1	31.3	36.2
	4) Certainly Disagree	7.2	5.0	10.7
	5) DK/NA	18.0	26.1	4.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
24)	[do not ask residents of refugee camps in the West Bank and Jerusalem] How do you evaluate the performance of the local council in your area during the past five years?			
	1) Very good	9.0	12.2	4.6
	2) Good	51.4	56.6	44.5
	3) Bad	24.2	19.1	31.0
	4) Very bad	10.0	9.6	10.5
	5) DK/NA	5.5	2.5	9.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
25)	The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank has announced its intentions to hold local elections next July. Do you think these upcoming local elections will be fair or unfair?			
	1) Certainly fair	6.0	4.7	8.0
	2) Fair	45.1	47.3	41.5
	3) Unfair	28.8	29.8	27.3
	4) Certainly unfair	8.8	8.6	9.1
	5) DK/NA	11.2	9.5	14.0
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
26)	Hamas has announced its intentions not to participate in the local elections that will take place next July in the West Bank. Do you believe the holding of these elections will help to make reconciliation closer or will it consolidate separation or will have no impact?			
	1) Certainly will make reconciliation closer	4.7	4.2	5.5
	2) Will make reconciliation closer	14.9	14.8	15.1
	3) Will have no impact	28.2	27.9	28.7
	4) Will consolidate separation	23.7	22.2	26.0
	5) Certainly will consolidate separation	23.2	25.4	19.5
	6) DK/NA	5.3	5.4	5.2

		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
27)	In your opinion, who is likely to win in the upcoming local elections in the West Bank: candidates from Fateh, candidates from the left and independents, or family candidates?			
	1) Fateh	46.2	47.0	44.9
	2) Left and independents	13.0	11.3	15.7
	3) Family	20.0	25.6	10.9
	4) DK/NA	20.8	16.1	28.6
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
28)	[Ask only West Bank respondents outside refugee camps and Jerusalem] Do you think you will or will not participate in the upcoming local elections next July?			
	1) Certainly will participate	20.3	20.3	
	2) Will participate	41.0	41.0	
	3) Will not participate	23.0	23.0	
	4) Certainly will not participate	11.7	11.7	
	5) DK/NA	4.0	4.0	
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
29)	If parliamentary and presidential elections were to take place now, who you think will win, Fateh, Hamas, or others?			
	1) Fateh	46.3	51.9	37.1
	2) Hamas	15.8	13.3	20.1
	3) others	21.7	18.8	26.3
	4) DK/NA	16.2	16.0	16.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
30)	The PLO and president Abbas propose holding parliamentary and presidential elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but Hamas opposes the holding of such elections. Why in your opinion Hamas is opposed to the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?			
	1) because it believes it is not allowed to participate in the political life in the West Bank or because it believes such elections will not be fair	50.6	56.0	41.7
	2) because it might lose such	37.4	31.6	47.0

	elections			
	3) other reasons (specify: -----)	2.8	3.8	1.2
	4) DK/NA	9.1	8.6	10.1
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
31)	Have you heard about the publication by al Jazeera of Palestinian documents on Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?			
	1) Yes, I heard it on al Jazeera	69.4	69.1	69.7
	2) Yes, I heard it on networks other than al Jazeera	8.9	7.3	11.7
	3) I have not heard of it	21.4	23.3	18.1
	4) DK/NA	0.4	0.3	0.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
32)	Do you think all or part of what al Jazeera published about concessions made by president Abbas or Saeb Erekat in the negotiations with Israel to be true?			
	1) Think everything published to be true	37.8	39.3	35.4
	2) Think some to be true and some to be untrue	40.7	42.3	38.1
	3) Do not think any of it is true	18.6	15.0	24.2
	4) DK/NA	3.0	3.4	2.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
33)	From what you have heard or read in the press about the Palestinian documents published by al Jazeera on Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, do you think the Palestinian negotiating position remained committed or uncommitted to the vital goals and interests of the Palestinian people?			
	1) certainly remained committed to interests and goals of the Palestinian people	13.6	9.7	19.6
	2) remained committed to interests and goals of the Palestinian people	30.5	31.4	29.0
	3) did not remain committed to	28.9	31.8	24.4

	interests and goals of the Palestinian people			
	4) Certainly did not remain committed to interests and goals of the Palestinian people	20.4	20.4	20.5
	5) DK/NA	6.6	6.7	6.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
34)	In your view, what was the goal of al Jazeera in publishing the documents? Was it to reveal the facts as the network says or to conspire against the Palestinian leadership and negotiators as the PA says?			
	1) certainly to reveal facts	23.2	25.3	20.0
	2) to reveal facts	36.1	37.8	33.5
	3) to conspire against the Palestinian leadership and negotiators	27.7	27.1	28.5
	4) certainly to conspire against the Palestinian leadership and negotiators	8.1	4.5	13.7
	5) DK/NA	4.9	5.3	4.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
35)	And what about the response of the Palestinian Authority to the Jazeera revelations, was the response convincing or unconvincing to you?			
	1) Certainly convincing	6.4	3.3	11.2
	2) Convincing	26.4	24.6	29.3
	3) Unconvincing	46.7	51.2	39.6
	4) Certainly unconvincing	15.1	15.5	14.4
	5) DK/NA	5.4	5.4	5.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
36)	Demonstrations have erupted in Tunis, Egypt, and Libya against the leaders of these countries, do you feel or do not feel sympathies with the demonstrators?			
	1) Certainly sympathetic	51.7	52.4	50.6
	2) Sympathetic	40.4	39.6	41.7
	3)	6.0	6.6	4.9

	Unsympathetic			
	4) Certainly unsympathetic	1.0	0.7	1.4
	5) DK/NA	1.0	0.7	1.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
37)	What did the demonstrators in Egypt want in your view?			
	1) Freedom from oppression and authoritarianism	37.8	35.0	42.6
	2) Find way out of poverty and unemployment	40.7	41.5	39.3
	3) Fight corruption	10.8	11.4	9.7
	4) Replace the existing system with an Islamist one as the M	4.8	4.6	5.1
	5) Oppose Egypt's pro Western policies	3.3	4.0	2.2
	6) Others (specify ----)	1.4	2.0	0.3
	7) DK/NA	1.2	1.5	0.7
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
38)	Do you expect the developments in the Arab World will have positive or negative effects on Palestinian conditions or will they have no effect at all?			
	1) Certainly positive effects	22.3	19.5	26.9
	2) Positive effects	41.3	40.7	42.4
	3) Negative effects	12.0	12.9	10.5
	4) Certainly negative effects	5.4	5.8	4.7
	5) Will have no effects	15.2	16.9	12.4
	6) DK/NA	3.9	4.3	3.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
39)	Now after the fall of the Mubarak regime in Egypt, do you expect that the Rafah terminal will permanently open for passengers?			
	1) Certainly will open	14.7	13.0	17.6
	2) Will open	51.0	48.0	55.9
	3) Will not open	22.5	24.6	19.0

	4) Certainly will open	4.0	4.7	2.9
	5) DK/NA	7.8	9.7	4.7
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
40)	It seems Israel might not object to the opening of the Rafah terminal for movement of passengers between Gaza and Egypt, but it says that the opening of that terminal for movement of goods would lead to the closure of all Israeli border crossings with the Gaza Strip. If you have to choose, would you prefer if the borders between Israel and Gaza open permanently for movement of goods or would you prefer if the border between Egypt and Gaza open permanently for movement of goods even if this leads to the full closure of borders and crossings with Israel?			
	1) certainly prefer open crossings with Egypt for goods permanently	41.9	41.3	42.8
	2) prefer open crossings with Egypt for goods permanently	27.2	31.4	20.4
	3) prefer open crossings with Israel for goods permanently	20.3	17.9	24.4
	4) certainly prefer open crossings with Israel for goods permanently	6.5	4.1	10.4
	5) DK/NA	4.0	5.2	2.0
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
41)	Do you feel or do not feel a need for Palestinians in the West Bank to organize demonstrations similar to those occurring in other Arab countries in order to change the ruling regime in the West Bank?			
	1) Certainly feel the need for demonstrations	16.4	12.3	23.2
	2) Feel the need for demonstrations	30.3	24.0	40.8
	3) Do not feel the need for demonstrations	37.2	43.9	26.1
	4) Certainly do not feel the need for demonstrations	13.0	16.9	6.5
	5) DK/NA	3.1	2.9	3.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip

42)	[Only for WB] If such demonstrations were to take place in the West Bank, do you think you would want to participate in them?			
	1) Certainly want to participate	6.5	6.5	
	2) Want to participate	17.1	17.1	
	3) Do not want to participate	51.0	51.0	
	4) Certainly do not want to participate	22.6	22.6	
	5) DK/NA	2.8	2.8	
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
43)	Do you feel or do not feel a need for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to organize demonstrations similar to those occurring in other Arab countries in order to change the ruling regime in the Gaza Strip?			
	1) Certainly feel the need for demonstrations	17.6	13.9	23.5
	2) Feel the need for demonstrations	34.7	29.5	43.2
	3) Do not feel the need for demonstrations	30.2	34.7	22.6
	4) Certainly do not feel the need for demonstrations	9.7	11.5	6.7
	5) DK/NA	7.9	10.3	3.9
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
44)	[Only for Gaza] If such demonstrations were to take place in the Gaza Strip, do you think you would want to participate in them?			
	1) Certainly want to participate	18.1		18.1
	2) Want to participate	32.1		32.1
	3) Do not want to participate	34.0		34.0
	4) Certainly do not want to participate	13.8		13.8
	5) DK/NA	2.1		2.1
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
45)	In order to end the Palestinian split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, some call for the downfall of the regime in the West Bank while others call for the downfall of the regime in the Gaza Strip. Tell us what you think: does the			

ending of the split require the downfall of the regime in the Gaza Strip, or the West Bank, or in both places or in neither?				
	1) does not require the downfall of regime in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip	18.2	23.3	9.9
	2) requires downfall of regime in the West Bank	14.8	10.6	21.7
	3) requires downfall of regime in the Gaza Strip	16.4	13.5	21.2
	4) requires downfall of regime in both places	43.0	42.8	43.4
	5) DK/NA	7.6	9.9	3.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
46)	All of the Palestinians demand an end to the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But the question is how. We want you to help us in selecting the best means of ending the split by telling us if you agree or disagree with the following statement: President Abbas must end the split by agreeing to Hamas conditions even if this leads to the return of international and Israel financial and political boycott of the Palestinian Authority and even if the price was the inability of the PA to pay the salaries of employees and security services.			
	1) Certainly agree	5.9	5.1	7.2
	2) Agree	27.5	26.1	29.9
	3) Disagree	41.8	41.6	42.1
	4) Certainly Disagree	18.8	21.6	14.2
	5) DK/NA	5.9	5.6	6.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
47)	If the split ends but the financial and political boycott returned and the PA was unable to pay salaries or deliver some services, would this pose a threat or a danger to you or to your town or city or to the Palestinian people as a whole?			
	1) Certainly pose a threat	25.4	26.5	23.7
	2) Pose a threat	43.4	43.8	42.6
	3) Would not pose a threat	25.6	24.6	27.3
	4) Certainly would not pose a threat	2.3	2.3	2.4
	5) DK/NA	3.3	2.8	4.0

		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
48)	In your view what are the chances that President Abbas would take the initiative to end the split by accepting Hamas conditions and paying the price of return to political and financial boycott?			
	1) Very big chance	3.3	2.9	4.0
	2) Big chance	12.2	10.8	14.6
	3) Medium chance	26.7	23.6	31.6
	4) Small chance	26.2	24.2	29.5
	5) Very small or no chance	25.7	31.9	15.6
	6) DK/NA	5.9	6.7	4.6
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
49)	There is an alternative suggestion to ending the split whereby Hamas would accept international conditions including accepting existing agreements with Israel and leading to the formation of a national unity government recognized by Israel and the international community. Would you agree or disagree with this alternative suggestion?			
	1) Certainly agree	7.3	6.9	8.0
	2) Agree	40.1	41.9	37.3
	3) Disagree	35.9	35.0	37.3
	4) Certainly Disagree	9.9	9.3	10.8
	5) DK/NA	6.8	7.0	6.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
50)	If Hamas agrees to pay the price of ending the split by accepting agreements signed with Israel, would this pose a threat or a danger to you or to your town or city or to the Palestinian people as a whole?			
	1) Certainly pose a threat	8.2	7.4	9.6
	2) Pose a threat	34.8	34.3	35.7
	3) Would not pose a threat	45.9	46.5	44.9
	4) Certainly would not pose a threat	4.9	5.4	3.9
	5) DK/NA	6.2	6.4	6.0
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
51)	In your view what are the chances that Hamas would take the initiative to end the split by accepting agreements with Israel in order to open the door to the formation of a national unity government recognized by Israel and the international community?			
	1) Very big chance	2.5	1.3	4.5

	2) Big chance	10.7	8.1	14.9
	3) Medium chance	27.9	25.3	32.1
	4) Small chance	27.6	29.8	24.0
	5) Very small or no chance	25.5	28.5	20.6
	6) DK/NA	5.8	7.0	3.9
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
52)	During the past several weeks, several demonstrations have taken place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip raising several different slogans like the people want to end the split or the people want to end occupation and others. If you were to select just one slogan for all demonstrators in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which one of the following would you select?			
	1) People want an end to corruption	14.2	14.8	13.1
	2) People want an end to negotiations	2.3	2.0	2.6
	3) People want an end to Oslo	2.4	2.4	2.5
	4) People want to return to the intifada	2.3	2.9	1.4
	5) People want an end to the split	51.3	45.5	60.9
	6) People want an end to occupation	24.1	28.8	16.3
	7) People want an end to security coordination	2.0	1.6	2.7
	8) other (specify: -----)	1.5	2.1	0.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
53)	Salam Fayyad proposed a way to immediately end the split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but postpone reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas by forming a national unity government to be headed by a prime minister acceptable to the two sides while maintaining the current status quo in the security sector in the Gaza Strip under Hamas' control and the status quo in the West Bank in the security sector under Fateh's control. Do you support or oppose this proposal?			
	1) Certainly support	4.8	5.6	3.5
	2) Support	38.0	39.7	35.1
	3) Oppose	38.7	35.9	43.4
	4) Certainly oppose	13.3	12.7	14.3
	5) DK/NA	5.2	6.1	3.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip

54)	What do you expect to happen between Palestinians and Israelis now after the US has used its veto power against the UNSC resolution regarding Israeli settlements?			
	1)The two sides will soon return to negotiations	21.0	19.5	23.6
	2) The two sides will soon return to negotiations but some armed attacks will continue	36.0	31.3	43.8
	3) The two sides will not return to negotiations and armed attacks will not take place	15.7	16.2	14.8
	4)The two sides will not return to negotiations and armed attacks increase	19.6	23.7	12.8
	5) DK/NA	7.7	9.3	5.1
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
55)	Now more than 40 years after the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, what in your view are the chances for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state next to the state of Israel in the next five years? Are they high, medium, low, or none existent?			
	1) None existent	28.9	33.3	21.6
	2) Low	38.3	35.2	43.4
	3) Medium	26.7	23.9	31.3
	4) High	4.8	5.8	3.1
	5) DK/NA	1.4	1.9	0.6
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
56)	Looking at the developments in Egypt and some other Arab countries, do you think that the chances for establishing an independent Palestinian State next to Israel within the next five years had increased or decreased?			
	1)Certainly increased	1.6	1.0	2.7
	2)Increased	19.0	20.8	16.2
	3)Did not change	54.3	51.6	58.7
	4)Decreased	18.0	18.3	17.7
	5)Certainly decreased	5.0	6.0	3.4
	6)DK/NA	1.9	2.3	1.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip

57)	To what extent are you worried or not worried that you or a member of your family could be hurt by Israel in your daily life or that your land would be confiscated or home demolished?			
	1) Very Worried	28.2	28.2	28.2
	2) Worried	42.0	40.8	44.1
	3) Not worried	25.5	27.0	23.0
	4) Not worried at all	4.0	3.9	4.4
	5) DK/NA	0.3	0.2	0.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
58)	What do you think are the aspirations of Israel for the long run?			
	1) Withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 after guaranteeing its security	6.7	4.8	9.9
	2) Withdrawal from part of the occupied territories after guaranteeing its security	10.2	11.3	8.4
	3) Annexation of the West Bank while denying political rights of Palestinian citizens	21.0	20.3	22.2
	4) Extending the borders of the state of Israel to cover all the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea and expelling its Arab citizens	60.3	61.0	59.0
	5) DK/NA	1.7	2.5	0.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
59)	According to the Saudi plan, Israel will retreat from all territories occupied in 1967 including Gaza the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and a Palestinian state will be established. The refugees problem will be resolved through negotiation in a just and agreed upon manner and in accordance with UN resolution 194 which allows return of refugees to Israel and compensation. In return, all Arab states will recognize Israel and its right to secure borders, will sign peace treaties with her and establish normal diplomatic relations. Do you agree or disagree to this plan?			
	1) Certainly agree	6.3	4.7	8.9

	2) Agree	49.4	47.8	52.1
	3) Disagree	31.0	32.6	28.4
	4) Certainly Disagree	9.5	9.9	8.8
	5) DK/NA	3.8	5.0	1.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
60)	There is a proposal that after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the settlement of all issues in dispute, including the refugees and Jerusalem issues, there will be a mutual recognition of Israel as the state of the Jewish people and Palestine as the state of the Palestinians people. Do you agree or disagree to this proposal?			
	1) Certainly agree	3.8	3.7	3.9
	2) Agree	44.6	45.9	42.5
	3) Disagree	35.7	35.1	36.8
	4) Certainly Disagree	14.1	13.2	15.6
	5) DK/NA	1.8	2.1	1.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
61)	In light of the termination of negotiations, how do you propose going about ending occupation and building a Palestinian state? If you were to choose from among the following priorities, which one you would prefer?			
	1) Going to the UN Security Council to obtain recognition of a Palestinian state	33.0	31.6	35.3
	2) Return to armed confrontations and attacks against Israel	24.5	20.6	30.9
	3) Organizing widespread peaceful and nonviolent confrontations	18.4	19.9	16.0
	4) Dissolve the PA	16.6	17.7	14.8
	5) Other (specify: -----)	2.0	2.9	0.4
	6) DK/NA	5.5	7.3	2.6
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
62)	If the Palestinian side decides to go the security council to obtain recognition of a Palestinian state, do you think the US will use its veto power against such a resolution?			
	1) Certainly yes	33.5	35.1	30.9
	2) Yes	41.5	41.5	41.5

	3) No	12.0	11.0	13.6
	4) Certainly no	4.6	4.7	4.5
	5) DK/NA	8.4	7.7	9.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
63)	The US has used its veto power to prevent the UNSC from issuing a resolution condemning Israeli settlement activities. Given this US behavior, do you support or oppose going to the UNSC in the future to issue similar resolutions?			
	1) Certainly support	4.7	3.9	6.1
	2) Support	31.4	33.3	28.2
	3) Oppose	46.5	46.3	46.8
	4) Certainly oppose	11.2	11.0	11.5
	5) DK/NA	6.2	5.5	7.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
64)	And what about the US role in the peace process in the future, do you support or oppose a large role for the US?			
	1) Certainly support	1.5	1.7	1.2
	2) Support	25.9	28.3	21.9
	3) Oppose	52.6	51.9	53.7
	4) Certainly oppose	16.6	15.3	18.9
	5) DK/NA	3.4	2.9	4.3
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
65)	If at the end of 2011 the Palestinian side unilaterally declares the establishment of a Palestinian state without an agreement with Israel, do you think such a declaration will lead to actual change on the current conditions in the Palestinian areas with regard to settlements and control of the occupation forces over roads and crossings in the West Bank?			
	1) Certainly lead to positive change	2.2	1.6	3.2
	2) Will lead to change to the better	22.2	21.0	24.1
	3) Will not lead to any change, positive or negative	40.5	35.6	48.5
	4) Will lead to negative change	27.0	31.0	20.4
	5) Certainly will lead to negative change	5.0	7.3	1.3
	6) DK/NA	3.1	3.5	2.5
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip

66)	In light of the successes achieved by the peaceful revolts in Arab countries like Egypt and Tunisia, do you think that if a peaceful popular revolution is to erupt against the occupation and the settlements in the West Bank it would be capable of ending occupation or stopping settlements?			
	1) Certainly capable	2.7	1.2	5.2
	2) Capable	28.5	22.5	38.4
	3) Incapable	51.2	56.7	42.1
	4) Certainly incapable	14.8	16.8	11.5
	5) DK/NA	2.9	2.9	2.8
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
67)	With regard to the attack in Itamar settlement near Nabus few days ago which led to the death of a family of five. Do you support or oppose this attack?			
	1) Certainly support	5.5	3.4	9.1
	2) Support	26.4	16.9	41.9
	3) Oppose	45.8	51.3	36.9
	4) Certainly oppose	17.3	24.3	5.9
	5) DK/NA	5.0	4.2	6.2
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
68)	If no agreement is reached on the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and armed confrontations between Palestinians and Israelis erupted, do you think they will help achieve Palestinian national rights in ways that negotiations could not?			
	1) Certainly they will help	7.3	5.5	10.2
	2) Will help	37.9	32.8	46.4
	3) Will not help	41.7	44.6	36.9
	4) Certainly they will not help	7.6	10.8	2.5
	5) DK/NA	5.5	6.3	4.1
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip
69)	Concerning armed attacks against Israeli civilians inside Israel, I....			
	1) Strongly support	9.2	6.9	13.2
	2) Support	33.8	25.7	47.2
	3) Oppose	43.4	50.4	31.8
	4) Strongly oppose	11.2	14.6	5.4
	5) DK/NA	2.4	2.4	2.4
		Total	West bank	Gaza Strip

70)	Which of the following political parties do you support?			
	1) PPP	0.4	0.5	0.4
	2) PFLP	5.1	4.7	5.7
	3) Fateh	30.7	29.1	33.4
	4) Hamas	16.9	13.5	22.5
	5) DFLP	0.8	0.7	0.8
	6) Islamic Jihad	1.6	0.6	3.4
	7) Fida	0.0	0.0	0.0
	8) National Initiative (almubadara)	0.8	1.1	0.4
	9) Independent Islamist	2.8	2.7	3.1
	10) Independent nationalist	4.5	5.0	3.8
	11) Third way headed by Salam Fayyad	0.9	1.5	0.0
	12) None of the above	34.3	39.1	26.4
	13) Others	1.0	1.7	0.0

Source: <http://www.pcpsr.org/survey/polls/2011/p39efull.html>

WEST ASIA

167-3. Pakistanis Views Are Split About The Supermacy of China & US

Which Country Is More Powerful? USA Or China ; Views Are Split; 32% Say USA While 31% Say China

GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN

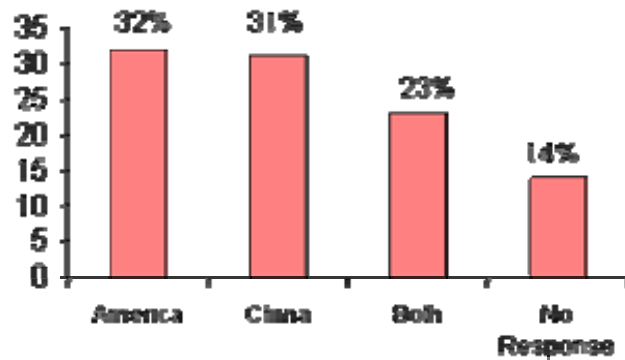
Islamabad, April 13, 2011

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan , 32% of all Pakistanis believe USA to be more powerful, where as 31% hold a similar view about China.

In a survey, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked the following question: “In your opinion which country is more powerful, China or America?” Thirty two percent (32%) believed USA to be more powerful as opposed to 31% who considered China to be a stronger global power. 23% said both are equally powerful and a considerable 14% gave no response.

A detailed analysis of the survey showed that more urban residents (37%) considered USA to be more powerful than their rural (29%) counter parts. It can also be seen that with age the concept of considering USA more powerful decreased with 37% respondents under 30 and 30% over 50 years of age sharing this opinion.

“In your opinion which country is more powerful, China or America ?”



Source: Gallup and Gilani Surveys

The results of another poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan as part of a global survey regarding China’s growing economic and military power show that Pakistani views in this regard are more positive than the opinion that represents the Global Average. 74% Pakistanis view China’s growing economic strength positively as compared to the Global Average of 50%. Furthermore, while the Global Average shows that 26% consider China’s growing military power favorably, an overwhelming 61% Pakistanis view this as a positive development.

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 2745 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during January 2011. Error margin is estimated to be approximately + 2-3 per cent at 95%

Source: <http://www.gallup.com.pk/pollsshow.php?id=2011-04-13>

SOUTH ASIA

167-4. India: Oil’s not well...

India’s foreign policy mandarins should be happy. A majority of Indians support the country’s stance on Libya in condemning the US-led airstrikes.

Can democracy in any country be “gifted” to it by external forces? Any affirmative answer to this involves a contradiction in the very understanding of the term “democracy”. A people’s movement that seeks to change the political order of the day should necessarily be indigenous, sensitive to the needs and cultural moorings of its people who will hopefully find a voice and benefit by gaining control of their country’s political (and thus economic) destinies.

The current revolutions in the Arab world are an expression of desire of the people to free themselves from autocratic regimes and chart their own courses, partaking of the fruits of development that the 21st century is ready to bestow upon humanity.

And yet, things are not as simple as they seem. While the Western nations and civil societies have been largely viewing these popular uprisings as a vindication of the political systems of the

West, within the Arab world per se, there is some resentment and questioning of any imposition of a Western framework on these culturally very different countries. People aspire to find their own voice and freedom in their own way.

Which is why, the recent Europe and America-led airstrikes on Libya, in the grip of an anti-Gaddafi uprising need to be condemned (as India has already done). The NATO justification for these bombings led by France and the US is that by destroying the weaponry of Gaddafi’s merciless forces, it would be providing a level playing field to the rebels, who would otherwise be crushed. Arguments in the Western press also tend to support this stance of trying to prevent a carnage of the rebel forces through the neutralisation of Gaddafi’s airpower, tanks and artillery

by aerial and naval bombardment by pointing out how Gaddafi is a rogue and a thug, the very worst of dictators, whose sins (like the bombing of a Pan Am flight) in the past have gone unpunished.

Do you support the US-led air strikes on Libya?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	10.1
Yes	23.3
No	66.6
Total	100

India on the other hand along with China, Russia and Brazil has opposed the strikes on grounds that there will be collateral damage and many innocents would be killed needlessly. Earlier, we had also abstained from a UN Security Council resolution that had directed members (10 votes to zero) to take “any necessary action” against Gaddafi and his blood-thirsty forces who had turned fire on their own citizens.

Reactions in the Arab world to this interference by “global bully” US and its NATO partners have been less than enthusiastic and with good reason: Popular blogs and opinion points to the dichotomy of the Western stance, when it moralistically proclaims to be trying to “save democracy”, because, contrary to this stance, America has supported autocrats and dictators in other countries like Bahrain. In Bahrain, as the rulers called in the might of Saudi Arabia’s forces to crush rebels, the West treated them with kid gloves.

“Do you agree with India’s opposition to the air strikes”?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	6.8
Yes	73.5
No	19.7
Total	100

Other analysts point out the unrealistic nature of America’s Libyan misadventures. Already beleaguered by two wars, in Iraq and Afghanistan, and not quite successfully, the US will naturally not like to open up a third front by sending in ground forces thought necessary in any case to really quell Gaddafi’s forces. So what the airstrikes really amount to is ineffectual, hypocritical posturing. In the end, the bombing on Libya may be less to save democracy than to save Western interests in oil.

In fact, some analysts point out that even India’s reaction in condemning these is guided less by moral righteousness, more by its own oil concerns.

India’s national interests in Libya are essentially economic in nature with about 18,000 Indians working in that country, contributing to the foreign exchange kitty. Indian companies, especially in the hydrocarbon, power, construction and IT sector, have several ongoing projects in Libya. Besides, Indian oil majors Indian Oil, Oil India and ONGC Videsh are increasingly involving themselves with the Libyan hydrocarbon sector.

Over the past three decades, Indian companies have executed several projects there. These included building hospitals, houses, schools, roads, power plants, airports, dams, transmission

lines etc. Thus India needs a friendly regime in Tripoli, as do other emerging powers like China. Hence, the denouncing of the UN-mandated intervention.

But what do people in India feel about the airstrikes against Libya and India's stance on these? A recent CVOTER survey found that out, questioning people across 21 states on the issue.

The answers should please Indian foreign policy mandarins since domestic opinion seems to be firmly behind them.

About two thirds of those polled (66.6 per cent) denounced the air strikes on Libya by US-led forces and an overwhelming 73.5 per cent supported India's stance in condemning these.

People also rightly identified the cause of the Western intervention in Libya. About half the people surveyed (48.9 per cent) felt that the US and European forces had attacked Libya because of their interest in having some control over Libyan oil.

An outright majority of more than 54 per cent also felt that external powers had no right to interfere in Libya however bad the situation got there. This opinion of the Indian public is in sharp contrast to that of some in the US that NATO has the right to act like a schoolteacher and "correct" unruly orders.

However the Indian public seemed convinced that the US-led forces will be able to oust Gaddafi from Libya perhaps as a reaction to the situation in Iraq, even if America itself believes that the war there was less than successful. Finally, since one doesn't really know the nature of the rebel forces in Libya or even the identity of the leaders there, what will happen to the country once Gaddafi goes is a grey area. The Indian public reflected this state of mind when asked whether they thought Libya would slide into chaos if Gaddafi went. Opinion was split on the issue with almost an equal percentage (40 plus per cent each) replying in the affirmative and negative. That is one question we will have to wait to see resolved.

Methodology

National representative sample of 1238 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 24th to 28th March 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +/-3% at national level.

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter4i1/newsletter_4issue1_2011.pdf

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

167-5. Ranking Professional Communications and PR Companies in South Africa: The Good, the Bad and the Lag behind Global Standards

13 April 2011

An independent study of public relations and communications agencies in South Africa has revealed that the media believe that the good PR and communications professionals are excellent but there are only a few, while the bad ones are of a particularly poor quality. Ipsos Markinor conducted the study amongst editors, deputy editors, and business, financial and consumer journalists throughout the country during February 2011.

The study aimed at understanding how the media, as the recipients and gatherers of information, perceive the performance of professional communications and PR companies in South Africa. Using a 10-point scale, where zero represents the worst/lowest/least important point and 10 represents the best/highest/most important point; a sample of 20 of SA's top media representatives evaluated the performance of professional communications and PR companies. Note: it is estimated that the universe of editors, deputy editors and senior financial/business/consumer journalists does not exceed 100, so the realised sample is deemed sufficient to draw a conclusion about the PR and communications industry.

Findings in a nutshell:

- There appeared to be very little grey area, with a relatively small number of companies rated “excellent” and others “poor performers”.
- The media only attributed an average score of 6 to the overall quality of the industry.
- The study also revealed that respondents felt public relations and communications professionals should be better trained and educated (average agreement score of 7.58).
- There was strong agreement, with an average agreement rate of 8.89, that the good PR companies are a valuable asset to the media.
- An average agreement score of 6 showed that South African agencies in general were on a par with their global counterparts.

PROFESSIONAL RANKINGS

	<i>Average score</i>	<i>Overall professionalism</i>	<i>Standard of press releases</i>	<i>Understanding of business/sectors</i>	<i>Proactiveness/responsiveness</i>	<i>Access to clients</i>	<i>Integrity</i>
Corporate Image	8.32	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brunswick	8.05	2	2	2	2	2	2

	<i>Ave Score</i>	<i>Overall ranking</i>	<i>General professionalism</i>	<i>Experience</i>	<i>Quality Info & knowledge of sectors/clients</i>	<i>High honesty and integrity</i>	<i>Good reputation</i>	<i>Builds strong media relationships</i>
Tamra Veley (Corporate Image)	9.05	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dani Cohen (FD Beachhead)	7.95	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

Note: respondents had the opportunity to rate any/all companies that they are familiar with.

What is seen as important?

63.2% of the sample agreed that quality of information provided was critical, with a mean score of 8.84 on a 10-point scale. Honesty in representing clients scored a mean of 8.89 out of 10, with 36.8% saying this was critical.

Knowledge of their clients or sectors was also important, with a mean of 8.84 out of 10 and 47.4% said it was critical.

Providing or facilitating access to companies they represent as clients was also important with a mean of 8.37, while understanding the media was particularly important with a mean of 8.79 out of 10 (52.6% said it was critical). Meeting deadlines and accessibility also scored means of over 8 out of 10.

The agency that was highest rated by respondents in South Africa was Corporate Image. This agency scored most on overall professionalism, integrity, standard of press releases, understanding of clients and sectors, being proactive and providing access to clients. Brunswick and Fleishman Hillard was also highly rated by respondents.

Respondents who know professional individuals rated communications professional Tamra Veley, MD of Corporate Image, highest. Her average score exceeded 9 out of 10. Veley was rated highest on all measures, including professionalism; experience; honesty and integrity; quality and knowledge of clients; building strong media relationships; and having a good reputation. Dani Cohen, Managing Partner of FD Beachhead, was rated second highest with an average of 7.95 out of 10 across all measures..

General rating of the communications and PR industry in South Africa (%):

10-Point Scale	% Mentioned Per Point
10 - Outstanding	0
9	0
8	21.1
7	21.1
6	26.3
5	15.8
4	5.3
3	10.5
2	0
1 - Very poor	0
Mean score on the 10-point scale	6.05

The most important qualities of PR and communications companies (mean scores):

Qualities	Mean Score on a 10-Point Scale
Honesty in representation of their clients	8.89
Providing quality information	8.84
Knowledge of their client\sector	8.84
Understanding the media and their needs	8.79
Meeting deadlines	8.79
Accessibility	8.42
Providing access to clients or sources	8.37

Agreement with statements (mean scores):

Attributes of PR Companies	Mean Score on a 10-Point Scale
The good PR companies are a valuable asset to the media	8.89
PR professionals should be better trained and educated	7.58
PR and communications companies in South Africa are on par with their global counterparts	6.0
With few notable exceptions, the standard of PR and communications companies is generally low	5.95
I try not to deal with PR or communications companies on principle	4.89

Anneke Greyling, political analyst and Client Service Director at Ipsos Markinor, said: “this was a particularly interesting study as it revealed the symbiotic relationship between public relations professionals and the media.

There was general agreement that a few companies were very good, but the bulk was not highly rated. Two learnings emerged: there is a need for better education and training and the better public relations and communications companies are particularly valuable to the media.”

Some respondents felt that PR professionals should have experience in journalism to understand the industry better, while others commented that they were frequently ‘fed irrelevant information’.

Important note: Respondents could mention any PR company that they were familiar with or dealt with regularly.

Companies such as Magna Carta, Meropa and Kezi, and Marcus Brewster were mentioned; however, the number of mentions was too small to report.

Source:<http://ipsos-markinor.co.za/news/ranking-professional-communications-and-pr-companies-in-south-africa-the-good-the-bad-and-the-lag-behind-global-standards>

EAST EUROPE

167-6. War In Libya: View From Russia

Russians think that the world community should not intervene in the situation in Libya. None of the parties involved in the conflict is supported by Russians.

MOSCOW, March 24, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data describing how Russians explain what is happening in Libya, which side they favor, whether the world community should intervene in the conflict, and what Russia should do.

What is happening in Libya is due to the fight of people against authoritarian regime (19%), low living standards and high social stratification (14%). Rarer Russians name redistribution of power (7%), and resources (6%), provocations of western special services (4%), stagnation in the country (2%), and chain reaction across the Arab world (1%) among reasons behind the conflict. Only 12% heard about the war for the first time during the polling.

Russians are in favor of ordinary citizens of Libya (36%). They are CPRF party supporters (47%) and Russians with low level of education (50%). The rest of respondents support the opposition (13%), rather than the Gaddafi`s regime (7%). LDPR adherents (24%) and Russians with high level of education (18%) favor insurgents, whereas the Libyan government is supported by communists and non-parliament parties` representatives (14% for each). Eleven percent of respondents are neutral.

Most of Russians think other countries should not intervene in the conflict and leave the citizens of Libya tackling their problems alone (62%). Those who share such a stance are Fair Russia party supporters (80%), rural area residents (69%) and respondents aged above 35 (62-65%). The number of those who think the world community should intervene is 27%: mainly non-parliament parties' representatives (50%), supporters of United Russia party (29%), Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (38%), and young Russians (32%).

Most of Russians do not support the international military operation in Libya (64%). Negative attitudes are expressed by basically residents of small cities and rural area residents (67-69%), LDPR (78%) and Fair Russia (76%) supporters. Only every fifth respondents approves of the international military actions in Libya (20%). They are mainly Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (29%), and adherents of non-parliament parties (32%).

An overwhelming majority of Russians considering the conflict in Libya to be the internal problem of the country oppose the international military operation (85%). Those who think that the international community should intervene are split in their opinions: 61% support the military operations, while 28% oppose them.

From the point of view of the majority of Russians, Russia should be neutral with respect to what is happening in Libya and should not intervene in the conflict (56%). Those who think so are mainly supporters of LDPR party (71%) and Russians living in middle cities (61%). Eighteen percent of respondents consider Russia should influence Gaddafi and his supporters to set a dialogue with the opposition. This stance is shared by Fair Russia party and non-parliament parties` adherents (29% for each), as well as Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (31%). Much

rarer respondents think Russia should support the opposition (11%) or the Gaddafi`s regime (6%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 19-20 March, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Did you personally hear or do you hear for the first time about the civil war in Libya? If you know about that, what are the reasons behind the war, in your opinion? <i>(open-ended question, not more than three answers)</i>								
<i>Fight against authoritarian regime, violation of rights and freedoms</i>							19	
<i>Low living standards, high social stratification</i>							14	
<i>Redistribution of power</i>							7	
<i>Redistribution of resources (oil, land)</i>							6	
<i>Provocation of western special services</i>							4	
<i>Stagnation in the country, long rule of the same leader</i>							2	
<i>Domino effect, chain reaction</i>							1	
<i>Yes, I heard, but I do not know the reasons</i>							7	
<i>I hear for the first time</i>							12	
<i>Other</i>							1	
<i>Hard to tell</i>							32	
Who are you in favor of in this conflict? <i>(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who know what is happening in Libya)</i>								
<i>I am in favor the ordinary citizens of Libya</i>							36	
<i>I support the opposition, insurgents</i>							13	
<i>Neutral (I support no one)</i>							11	
<i>Government (Gaddafi`s regime)</i>							7	
<i>Hard to tell</i>							34	
Which of the two statements about the situation in Libya do you agree? <i>(close-ended question, one answer, % of those who know about what is happening in Libya)</i>								
	Total respondents	Parties` supporters					Non-parliament parties	I would not participate in elections
		CPRF	LDPR	Fair Russia	United Russia			
<i>Other</i>	62	64	66	80	60	43	64	

<i>countries should not intervene in the conflict in Libya, because this is an internal problem of the country, and Libyan citizens should tackle this problem on their own</i>							
<i>World community should intervene in the conflict and stop the civil war in Libya</i>	27	24	24	13	29	50	21
<i>Hard to tell</i>	11	11	10	7	10	7	15

Do you personally support or oppose international military operation in Libya?
(close-ended question, one answer, % of those who know about what is happening in Libya)

	Total respondents	Type of settlement			
		Moscow and St.Petersburg	More than 500 thousand	100 - 500 thousand	Less than 100 thousand
<i>Rather support</i>	20	29	20	18	18
<i>Rather do not support</i>	64	53	65	60	67
<i>Hard to tell</i>	16	18	15	22	15

What position should Russia take with respect to the war in Libya?
(close-ended question, one answer, % of those who know about what is happening in Libya)

	Total respondents	Parties` supporters				
		CPRF	LDPR	Fair	United	Non- I

				Russia	Russia	parliament parties	would not participate in elections
<i>Russia should support the former government of Libya headed by Gaddafi, even if it violates the rights of citizens in attempts to restore the order in the country</i>	6	10	4	4	4	14	7
<i>Russia should try to influence Gaddafi and his supporters to make him respect citizens' rights, and make him start the dialogue with the opposition</i>	18	22	12	29	21	29	12
<i>Russia should support the Libyan opposition to overthrow the Gaddafi`s regime</i>	11	9	7	4	11	14	10
<i>Russia should stay neutral and do not intervene in the conflict</i>	56	50	71	60	52	39	61
<i>Hard to tell</i>	10	8	6	2	11	4	10

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

Source: <http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111465.html>

167-7. Fukushima Accident: Is There A Threat To Russia?

The situation in Japan is considered to be the natural disaster. Russians are confident that the accident at the "Fukushima-1" power plant poses threat to Russia.

MOSCOW, March 31, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Centre (VCIOM) presents the data about what Russians think about the nature of the disasters in Japan, as well as whether the accident at the "Fukushima-1" power plant poses a threat to ecological situation in Russia.

According to Russians, the disasters happened in Japan are viewed as natural ones (64%). At the same time, one quarter of respondents think the earthquake was caused by human intervention in nature, changing climate and landscape (26%). Those who think the disasters were caused by the egoism of the Japanese and their striving for material wealth are in the minority (7%).

Those who think that what happened in Japan was a natural catastrophe are basically Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (77%), adherents of "United Russia" and "Fair Russia" parties (67% for each group) and elderly respondents (68%). Those who think the catastrophe was caused by the human activities are mainly residents of middle cities (30%), LDPR party supporters (31%), younger respondents rather than the retired persons (28% versus 22% respectively).

Two-thirds of Russians are afraid of the deterioration of the ecological situation due to the "Fukushima-1" disaster (66%). They are mainly residents of middle cities (71%), and women (71%). Twenty percent of respondents think the catastrophe in Japan will not have any impact on Russia. Those who are optimistic are metropolitan residents (29%), men (30%) and Russians aged 18-24 (31%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 26-27 March, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Which of the following statements about the nature of the catastrophe in Japan do you most agree?						
<i>(close-ended question, one answer)</i>						
	Total respondents	Moscow and St.Petersburg	More than 500thousand	100 - 500thousand	Less than100	Rural area
<i>This is likely to be a natural disaster</i>	64	77	69	61	62	61
<i>This is likely to have happened due to</i>	26	17	24	30	26	28

<i>human intervention in nature, changing climate and the landscape of the earth</i>						
<i>This is not a simple natural disaster; this is a punishment for the egoism of the Japanese, their striving for the material wealth, their loss of moral values</i>	7	3	6	7	8	8
<i>I do not know anything about the situation in Japan</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Hard to tell</i>	2	3	1	2	3	3

In your opinion, is there any threat of deterioration of the ecological situation in Russia due to the accident at the "Fukushima-1" power plant?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	Moscow and St.Petersburg	More than 500thousand	100 - 500thousand	Less than100	Rural area
<i>Rather yes</i>	66	56	67	71	65	69

<i>Rather no</i>	24	29	26	24	24	22
<i>Hard to tell</i>	9	15	7	5	11	10

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

Source: <http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111489.html>

WEST EUROPE

167-8. UK Retailers continue to face faltering footfall

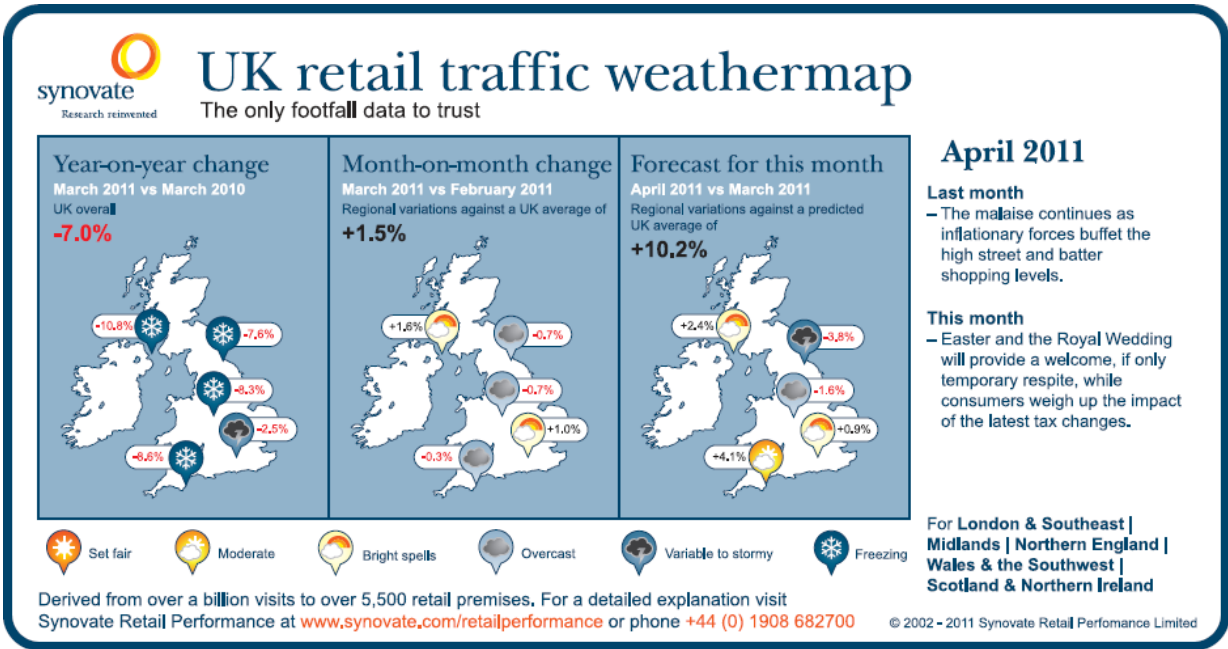
April 08, 2011

UNITED KINGDOM — The latest data from Synovate Retail Performance shows that retail footfall in March in the UK was significantly lower than the same month a year ago. The Retail Traffic Index (RTI) for the month was 7.0% down compared to March 2010, but up 1.5% on February. For the first quarter as a whole footfall finished 4.8% lower than quarter one 2010, somewhat better than the 5.6% deficit recorded for the final quarter of 2010.

"The start of 2011 has been challenging for retailers on a number of fronts," reflects Dr Tim Denison, Director of Retail Intelligence at Synovate. "The loss of five shoppers in every hundred is certainly one of these, and it is hurting retailers up and down the country. March was another difficult month for footfall. Admittedly March 2010 benefitted from having Easter in it, so making this year's figure looks particularly weak. Nevertheless we cannot hide from the facts that, firstly, shoppers simply haven't come out of their winter retrenchment yet and, secondly, that consumer confidence is continuing on a downward trajectory."

"Retailers are doing what they can through heavy, on-going promotional activity, but that serves to secure market share rather than to stimulate market size and frequency of visit. The reasons for fewer trips to non-food stores are well documented, but one that we think is particularly telling at the moment is the lack of money in the shopper's pocket. According to Asda Income Tracker, family spending power fell by £11 per week in February, representing a 6% drop on the previous year. With essentials such as domestic energy bills, petrol and food prices all on the rise, living costs are escalating. Inflation is currently double the average annual wage increase. Inevitably it is our discretionary shopping behaviour which is impacted the most. And with many retailers faced with the prospect of passing higher supplier prices on to the shopper, the outlook for the rest of the year remains tough for both retailers and for their customers. UK retailing is in a state of managed nervousness."

"Over the next month or so though," continues Denison, "we can expect to see some respite. The long awaited arrival of Easter, the Royal Wedding and the accompanying bank holidays will boost footfall and retail sales. Visit London predicts that an extra 600,000 tourists will come to Britain over the wedding period alone. We can expect the royal event to have a halo effect, perking up footfall and cranking up confidence, just as the Queen's coronation did in 1953, her silver jubilee in 1977 and Prince Charles' wedding in 1981. The question is how long we can expect the uplift in the nation's spirit and shopping to last."



Source: <http://www.synovate.com/news/article/2011/04/uk-retailers-continue-to-face-faltering-footfall.html>

167-9. One in Four Britons Smoke, Are Obese

High blood pressure, depression are the most widespread chronic illnesses in the U.K.
April 12, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Smoking and obesity -- two factors known to increase the risk for chronic health problems -- are significant health challenges for the United Kingdom. More than one in four British adults smoke and one in four are obese, likely putting a strain on the country's healthcare system.

Smoking and Obesity Rates[^] in the United Kingdom

Among British adults aged 18 and older

	All British adults	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
% Smoke	26.1	35.0	29.2	26.0	14.0
% Obese	25.2	13.6	24.2	30.9	27.9
% Overweight	31.5	20.0	34.3	34.9	31.9
% Normal weight	43.3	66.4	41.5	34.1	40.2

January-March 2011

[^]Based on respondents' self-reports of their height and weight, which are used to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI) scores. BMI scores of 30 or higher are classified as "obese."

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Obesity rates in the U.K. increase into middle age, with 45- to 64-year-old Britons most likely to be obese (30.9%), before declining slightly in the 65-plus age range. Smoking rates, on

the other hand, decreases with age. Young adults are the most likely to say they indulge in the habit, with 35.0% saying so.

These findings, encompassing the first three months of Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index tracking in the United Kingdom, reveal that Britons are nearly as likely as Americans to be obese and are more likely to smoke.

High Blood Pressure, Depression Most Widespread Chronic Illnesses in U.K.

Obesity and smoking are linked to various chronic conditions, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and even depression.

Two in 10 British adults report having high blood pressure, making it the most prevalent of seven chronic conditions the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index tracks in the U.K. Depression diagnosis is the second most frequently reported chronic illness at 16.9%, followed by high cholesterol at 15.4%.

Additionally, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes -- mostly preventable conditions --increase with age.

Chronic Conditions in the United Kingdom

Have you ever been told by a physician or nurse that you have any of the following...?

	All British adults	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
% High blood pressure	20.4	5.9	10.0	24.3	42.4
% Depression	16.9	13.2	18.8	19.7	13.0
% High cholesterol	15.4	1.9	5.6	20.7	33.3
% Asthma	13.5	13.7	14.7	12.4	13.6
% Diabetes	7.4	2.5	3.0	8.9	15.9
% Cancer	4.3	1.0	1.5	4.7	10.8
% Heart attack	3.3	.7	.3	3.2	9.9

January-March 2011

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Half of Britons Exercise Frequently

Frequent physical activity is a key way to reduce or prevent obesity and chronic health problems, but many Britons are not engaging in it. About half of British adults, 49.5%, say they exercise for 30 minutes or more three or more days a week. This figure is slightly lower among those aged 30 to 44 (48.2%) and 45 to 64 (46.4%). The U.K.'s National Health Service (NHS) recommends 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity at least five days per week.

Britons do somewhat better at healthy eating, with 66.1% saying they eat five or more servings of fruits or vegetables four or more days per week and 69.3% reporting they ate healthy all day "yesterday." Healthy eating in the U.K., unlike frequent exercise, improves with age.

Health Habits in the United Kingdom

Among British adults aged 18 and older

	All British adults	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
% Exercise three or more days per week	49.5	55.5	48.2	46.4	51.0
% Eat five servings of fruits and vegetables four or more days per week	66.1	53.0	63.0	70.6	75.2
% Ate healthy all day "yeaterday"	69.3	57.8	59.9	72.7	87.6

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Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Implications

British adults face numerous health challenges. Chronic health conditions, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes, afflict a significant proportion of Britons. Obesity and smoking rates are also high, with the former about on par with and the latter exceeding what the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index found in the U.S.

At a time when the U.K.'s state-funded NHS is grappling with budgetary pressures from an aging population and increasing costs of care, these data provide insight into potential pathways to decrease costly, chronic health issues and, in turn, healthcare costs.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, launched in January of this year in the U.K. to track Britons' wellbeing on an ongoing basis, reveals at least one clear way for Britons to improve their health and decrease chronic disease risk factors: more exercise. The Well-Being Index also highlights that different health strategies are needed for different age groups. Stop-smoking policies targeted at young British adults and exercise programs geared toward the middle aged could go a long way in curbing the rates of many chronic diseases in the country.

As the British government pushes for an extensive overhaul of NHS, the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index provides healthcare decision makers with in-depth data they can use to design strategies to prevent and address long-term health issues that affect Britons' quality of life and pocketbook.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index survey Jan. 2-March 31, 2011, with a random sample of 3,933 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the United Kingdom, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1.8 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 5 cell phone respondents and 29 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, education, region, adults in the household, and cell phone status. Demographic weighting targets are based on the most recently published population data from the Census Bureau for Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. 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/147023/One-Four-Britons-Smoke-Obese.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

167-10. Poor Workplaces Present Key Challenge for the UK

Britons in subpar work environments rate lives more poorly, are less happy
April 12, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Work environments emerge as a key challenge for Britons according to the inaugural findings from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index in the United Kingdom. When the U.S. and the U.K. are compared across six key areas of wellbeing, the U.K. lags behind the U.S. the most in terms of workers' perceptions of their workplaces.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index: United Kingdom vs. United States

Among adults aged 18 and older

	U.K.	U.S.	Difference
Well-Being Index	64.3	66.4	-2.1
Life Evaluation Index	44.6	50.6	-6.0
Emotional Health Index	79.1	79.1	0.0
Physical Health Index	77.6	76.2	1.4
Healthy Behaviors Index	64.9	63.2	1.7
Work Environment Index	34.7	46.9	-12.2
Basic Access Index	85.2	82.3	2.9

January-March 2011

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP'

Britons' overall Well-Being Index score of 64.3 falls slightly behind Americans' 66.4 during the first three months of daily Gallup-Healthways surveys conducted in each country this year. Along with less positive assessments of their work environments, Britons rate their lives overall far less positively than do Americans. This results in a Life Evaluation Index score that is six points lower than Americans' Life Evaluation Index score. While Britons do slightly better than Americans on the Healthy Behaviors and Basic Access sub-indexes of the overall Well-Being Index, their Emotional Health score is identical and their Physical Health score is essentially the same as Americans' scores on these measures.

These findings are based on combined results from the first three months of Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index tracking in the U.K. Gallup surveyed 3,933 residents in the U.K.,

and of that number, Gallup asked 1,682 employed respondents the Work Environment Index items.

Employee-Supervisor Relationship Biggest Issue in U.K. Workplaces

U.K. employees give their workplaces lower ratings than do U.S. workers across all four work environment measures. British workers' relationship with their supervisors is the leading challenge for organizations in the U.K. Less than half of Britons who work for an employer say their supervisor is more like a partner than a boss (42.1%), while the majority of American workers say the same (55.8%).

British workers are also less likely than American workers to say they get to use their strengths at work and that they are satisfied with their job.

Work Environment Index: United Kingdom vs. United States

Among adults aged 18 and older who are employed full or part time for an employer or for self

	U.K.	U.S.	Difference
Work Environment Index	34.7	46.9	-12.2
% Satisfied with your job/work you do	83.8	87.7	-3.9
% Get to use your strengths to do what you do best every day	80.3	84.4	-4.1
% Supervisor treats you like he/she is your partner	42.1	55.8	-13.7
% Supervisor always creates environment that is trusting/open	77.1	78.7	-1.6

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Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Gallup classifies those who answer yes to all four items in the Work Environment Index as having a good work environment. In total, 35% of British workers have a good work environment, compared with 47% of American workers.

Gallup research has documented a strong relationship between employees' perceptions of their workplaces and important business outcomes, including customer engagement, turnover, absenteeism, and productivity. So, the U.K.'s less optimal workplaces limit the potential of businesses and, in turn, the nation's economy.

The U.K. has long lagged behind the U.S. in productivity. American workers outpace those in the U.K., producing \$56.80 worth of goods and services per hour worked compared with British workers' \$45.80 in 2009, according to the latest figures available from the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development.

Britons in Good Workplaces Rate Lives Better and Are Happier

The U.K.'s subpar workplaces are also bad for Britons' wellbeing. Britons who give a positive response to all four Work Environment Index items -- meaning they have a good workplace -- rate their lives better. About half of British workers in subpar work environments evaluate their lives well enough to be considered "thriving," versus 62.7% of those in good work environments.

British workers in subpar workplaces also report more daily worry, anger, stress, and sadness. Those in good work environments, on the other hand, have more daily happiness, enjoyment, and laughter.

Life Evaluation, Emotional Health in Good vs. Subpar Work Environments in the U.K.

Among British adults aged 18 and older who are employed full time for an employer or self

	Good work environment	Subpar work environment[^]	Difference
LIFE EVALUATION			
% Thriving	62.7	52.1	-10.6
% Struggling	36.1	45.2	9.1
NEGATIVE EMOTIONS			
% Diagnosed with depression	8.3	13.2	4.9
% Worry	17.5	30.2	12.7
% Sadness	11.1	15.6	4.5
% Stress	24.7	33.9	9.2
% Anger	8.6	16.7	8.1
POSITIVE EMOTIONS			
% Happiness	92.6	86.2	-6.4
% Enjoyment	89.0	81.0	-8.0
% Smile or laugh	89.7	82.0	-7.7

January-March 2011

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

[^]Those who give a negative response to one or more of the four Work Environment Index items

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Implications

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron is making national wellbeing a high priority in the country. He has empowered the country's Office for National Statistics to start taking its own measurements of "national well-being" and in March launched a new Department for Business Innovation & Skills task force to improve wellbeing in workplaces.

Cameron understands these two initiatives are interconnected. "This taskforce has my full support because I know that it will work to bring together two of my government's top priorities - delivering sustainable growth across the U.K., and coming up with new approaches to help people improve their wellbeing," Cameron said at the launch. The inaugural Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index findings reveal that a focus on improving work environments will do just that.

More broadly, Cameron recognizes that leaders who rely solely on classical economic metrics to evaluate their country's progress are missing significant and valuable insights into their constituents' state of mind. The Gallup-Healthways wellbeing metrics provide empirical evidence about how individuals think and feel about the aspects of their lives that are most related to economic outcomes. These behavioral economic data are the key to helping governments and businesses predict and shape outcomes.

With the Gallup-Healthways wellbeing metrics, business and government leaders in the U.K. now have crucial insight into the state of mind of the country's workers. These attitudes are

likely stifling productivity and may be contributing to a situation where millions of Britons say they would leave the country if given the opportunity. Leaders who create policies, programs, and incentives to develop better work environments will help to improve Britons' wellbeing and the nation's economic future overall.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index in the U.K., launched in January of this year, expands on the multiyear daily wellbeing tracking initiative in the U.S. By tracking Britons' wellbeing daily, the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index will be able to monitor residents' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors on an ongoing basis and uncover a wealth of hidden challenges and opportunities that the U.K. government and businesses can use to inform their decision making.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index survey Jan. 2-March 31, 2011, with a random sample of 3,933 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the United Kingdom, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1.8 percentage points for the total sample and ± 2.3 points for the employed by an employer group.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 5 cell phone respondents and 29 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within the 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, education, region, adults in the household, and cell phone status. Demographic weighting targets are based on the most recently published population data from the Census Bureau for Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. 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/147005/Poor-Workplaces-Present-Key-Challenge.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

NORTH AMERICA

167-11. Obama Job Approval at 41%, Tying His Low

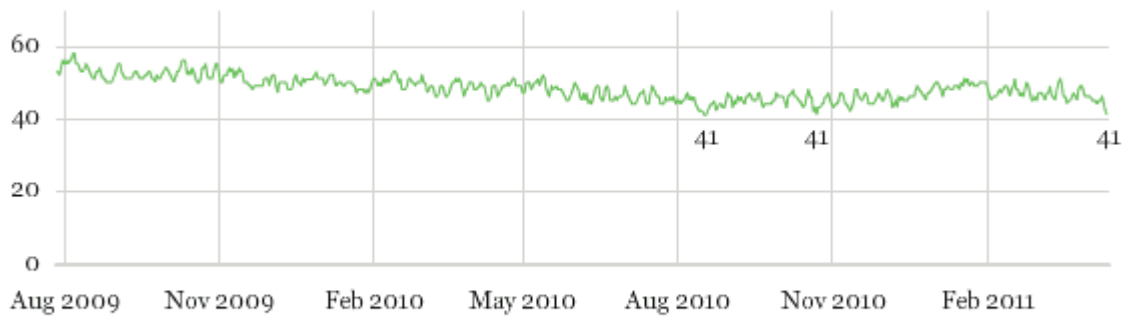
Independents' approval rating down to 35%

April 15, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ - The latest Gallup Daily tracking three-day average shows 41% of Americans approving of the job Barack Obama is doing as president. That ties his low as president, which he registered three times previously -- twice in August 2010 and once in October 2010.

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

■ % Approve



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

The current 41% approval rating from April 12-14 polling includes interviews conducted before and after Obama announced his plan for deficit reduction on Wednesday. It also comes in the same week Congress is voting on the 2011 budget deal reached last Friday. The deal did not seem to have an immediate effect on the way Americans viewed Obama, given his 44% approval rating in the three days prior to the agreement and his 46% rating in the initial days after the agreement.

The economy is likely also a factor in Obama's declining ratings. Though unemployment is improving according to government estimates, the economic recovery remains slow and is being challenged by rising fuel prices. Presidents' approval ratings have historically suffered in times of high gas prices.

The current three-day average finds 50% of Americans disapproving of Obama, two percentage points below his high disapproval rating of 52% from Aug. 15-17 and Aug. 16-18, 2010, polling.

Obama's approval rating has averaged 48% thus far in 2011, including a slightly higher 50% average during the last two weeks in January.

Declining Approval Most Apparent Among Independents

Obama's approval rating in April 12-14 polling is down most among independents when compared with his 2011 average to date as well as his term average among this group. Currently, 35% of independents approve of the president, nine points off his average from independents this year. Democrats' current ratings are also below what he has averaged thus far in 2011 (down four points), while Republicans' are the same.

Obama Approval Rating, by Political Party

	All Americans	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
April 12-14, 2011	41%	77%	35%	14%
Average, 2011 to date	48%	81%	44%	14%
Average, 2009-2011	52%	84%	48%	17%

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

Implications

President Obama is now as unpopular as he has been at any time since he became president. He faces difficult challenges ahead in trying to improve the economy and get the federal budget deficit under control, and must do so with Republicans in control of the House. His ability to navigate these challenges will help determine whether he will be elected to a second term as president. Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton all were similarly unpopular at this stage of their presidencies, but the last two were able to turn things around in time to win a second term in office.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 12-14, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,540 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell phones numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both, cell phone mostly, and having an unlisted landline number). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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

Source:[http://www.gallup.com/poll/147140/Obama-Job-Approval-Tying-Low.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas - Northern America - Politics - USA](http://www.gallup.com/poll/147140/Obama-Job-Approval-Tying-Low.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA)

167-12. Gov. Christie Unknown to Majority of Americans

Americans view him slightly more positively than negatively
 April 11, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Though New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is well regarded in Republican circles and mentioned as a potential 2012 Republican presidential candidate, more than half of Americans have no opinion of him. He is slightly better known among Republicans, who generally view him positively.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie

	% Favorable	% Unfavorable	% No opinion
All Americans	27	22	52
Republicans	41	12	47
Independents	26	20	55
Democrats	18	32	50

Gallup, March 25-27, 2011

GALLUP'

These results are based on a March 25-27 Gallup poll. Christie was elected as governor in 2009 and made headlines last year with his blunt talk and ability to win legislative battles in heavily Democratic New Jersey. He campaigned frequently on behalf of Republican candidates in 2010, and some view him as a potentially formidable candidate for the 2012 presidential election. Christie has steadfastly denied any interest in running.

The Gallup poll suggests that if he did run, he would have his work cut out to become better known nationally and among his party's supporters.

Among Republicans, Petraeus Outshines Christie, Others

The same poll asked about two other high-profile Republicans who have said they do not plan to run for president in 2012 -- former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Gen. David Petraeus -- and one, Donald Trump, who is very publicly contemplating a bid. Of these three and Christie, Republicans view Petraeus most favorably. Bush and Trump have higher favorable ratings among Republicans than Christie does, but also higher unfavorable ratings.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of Possible Republican 2012 Presidential Candidates, Among Republicans

	% Favorable	% Unfavorable	% No opinion	Net favorable (pct. pts.)
David Petraeus	61	7	32	+54
Chris Christie	41	12	47	+29
Jeb Bush	53	26	21	+27
Donald Trump	52	37	10	+15

Gallup, March 25-27, 2011

GALLUP'

If any of those men did throw their hat into the ring for 2012, it's not clear he would become one of the front-runners. The same March 25-27 poll found 65% of Republicans with a favorable opinion of Mike Huckabee and 15% with an unfavorable opinion. Huckabee has generally led in polls of Republicans' presidential nomination preferences and, based on a different measurement procedure, has the highest Positive Intensity Score of any of the most likely Republican candidates.

Christie's Image Among All Americans Better Than Those of Bush, Trump

Americans' slightly more positive than negative ratings of Christie put him in a somewhat better positioning than either Bush or Trump nationally. Petraeus has the most positive image of the four long-shot candidates, likely because of his status as a military general and his overseeing the successful "surge" strategy in Iraq, and because he may not be viewed as a political figure as much as the others are. Bush has the poorest national image, perhaps due to his association with his brother, former President George W. Bush.

Favorable/Unfavorable Opinions of Possible Republican 2012 Presidential Candidates, Based on All Americans

	% Favorable	% Unfavorable	% No opinion	Net favorable (pct. pts.)
David Petraeus	55	11	34	+44
Chris Christie	27	22	52	+5
Donald Trump	43	47	10	-4
Jeb Bush	35	44	18	-9

Gallup, March 25-27, 2011

GALLUP

By comparison, Huckabee's image is more positive than negative among all Americans (41% favorable, 32% unfavorable), as is Barack Obama's (54% to 43%). Obama announced his plans to run for re-election last week, and is all but assured of being the Democratic Party nominee in 2012.

Implications

The Republican field has yet to take shape for the party's 2012 presidential nomination, and there are concerns that the list of likely candidates lacks a person appealing enough to defeat Obama. Some observers have talked about Christie as a potential candidate who could do that, though at this stage, his national profile remains fairly low, with more than half of Americans not having an opinion of him.

At a similar point in 2007, Obama was much better known than Christie is now, with only about one in four Americans unfamiliar with the then-Illinois senator at that time. That may be owing to Obama's high-profile speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention and to the fact that he had already announced his candidacy for president when that late March 2007 poll was conducted.

As politicians become better known, both their favorable and their unfavorable ratings tend to increase, meaning it is advantageous to start out with much higher favorable than unfavorable ratings, as Obama did in December 2006 (42% favorable, 11% unfavorable). That is the case for

Christie among supporters of his own party; however, among the broader American public, he is viewed only slightly more positively than negatively at the present time.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted March 25-27, 2011, with a random sample of 1,027 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/147038/Gov-Christie-Unknown-Majority-Americans.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

167-13. Romney Not Generating Strong Positive Intensity

Romney widely known, but trails Huckabee and Bachmann in positive intensity
by Frank Newport
April 12, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who Monday announced the formation of a presidential exploratory committee, is among the most recognized Republicans who are thought to be most likely to run for president in 2012. At the same time, his Positive Intensity Score among Republicans nationwide does not stand out.

Positive Intensity Scores, Potential Candidates for 2012 Republican Presidential Nomination*

Based on Republicans/Republican leaners familiar with each candidate

	Mar 7-20, 2011	Mar 14-27, 2011	Mar 21- Apr 3, 2011	Mar 28- Apr 10, 2011
Huckabee	25	26	27	27
Bachmann	20	20	19	20
Romney	16	20	20	17
Cain	n/a	19	21	16
Palin	19	18	16	16
Gingrich	15	19	19	15
Pawlenty	16	16	17	15
Paul	14	14	13	15
Huntsman	11	13	15	13
Santorum	15	14	14	12
Barbour	9	10	11	9
Daniels	12	15	12	7
Johnson	1	2	0	0
Roemer	n/a	1	1	-1

* % with highly favorable opinion minus % with highly unfavorable opinion, based only on those who recognize candidate

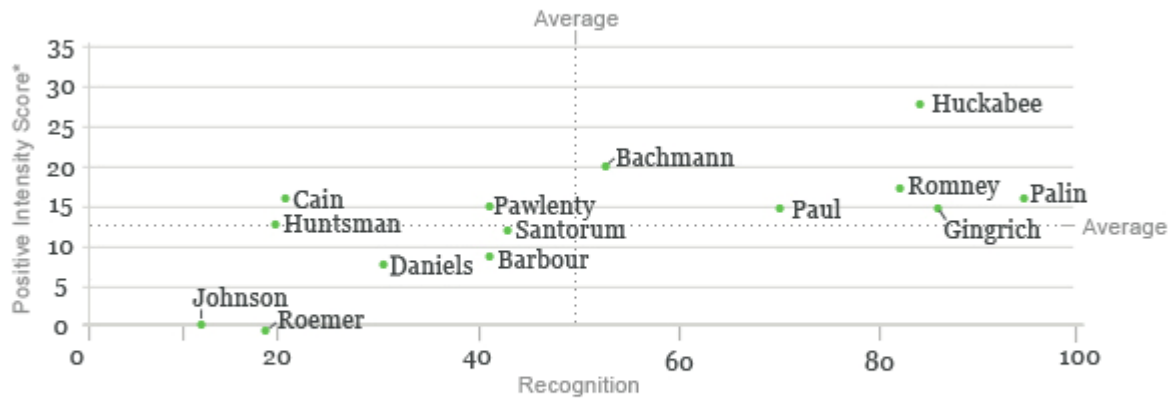
Question wording: Next, I am going to mention the names of some people in the news. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name, or not. (Asked of those who recognize each person): Please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable impression of _____. Is that a strongly (favorable/unfavorable) opinion or just (a/an) (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

GALLUP*

Romney joins several Republicans who have entered the curious territory of taking tentative steps toward a presidential candidacy, while not making it official. This group includes Newt Gingrich, who announced the creation of a website, "Newt Explore 2012," and Tim Pawlenty, who, like Romney, has set up a presidential exploratory committee.

None of these three semi-candidates are leaders among Republicans in terms of Gallup's Positive Intensity Scores. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee continues to register the highest Positive Intensity Score (27) in Gallup interviewing conducted March 28-April 10. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann trails Huckabee, at 20. A large group of possible candidates with scores in the 15 to 17 range follow her -- including Romney, Gingrich, and Pawlenty. They are joined in that group by Sarah Palin, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, and Georgia businessman Herman Cain. (Complete data for the March 28-April 10 interviewing period follow on page 2.)

Potential GOP Candidate Images Among Republicans and Republican-Leaning Independents
 Numbers are in percentages



* % with strongly favorable opinion minus % with strongly unfavorable opinion, based only on those who recognize candidate
 March 28-April 10, 2011

GALLUP®

Romney is among the best-known potential Republican candidates, reflecting in large part his history as a 2008 presidential candidate. His recognition score of 83% is similar to that of Gingrich (86%), who became widely known as speaker of the House in the 1990s, and Huckabee (85%), who -- like Romney -- was a candidate in 2008. Only Palin (95%) is better known than these three, reflecting her status as a former vice presidential nominee and current television personality.

Name Recognition of Potential Candidates for 2012 Republican Presidential Nomination

Based on Republicans and Republican leaners

	Feb 28- Mar 13, 2011	Mar 7-20, 2011	Mar 14-27, 2011	Mar 21- Apr 3, 2011	Mar 28- Apr 10, 2011
	%	%	%	%	%
Palin	96	97	97	95	95
Gingrich	85	86	86	86	86
Huckabee	87	89	90	86	85
Romney	81	83	84	83	83
Paul	76	76	74	71	70
Bachmann	52	52	54	53	53
Santorum	42	42	46	45	42
Barbour	42	42	43	42	41
Pawlenty	41	41	40	41	41
Daniels	30	33	33	32	31
Cain	n/a	n/a	21	22	21
Huntsman	20	21	21	20	20
Roemer	n/a	n/a	19	19	19
Johnson	12	11	14	14	12

Question wording: Next, I am going to mention the names of some people in the news. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name, or not.

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Implications

Romney's major challenge as he gears up for his presumed presidential run is to generate enthusiasm among potential GOP voters. Romney is in the enviable position of being widely known among Republicans nationwide, which helps him in traditional trial-heat ballot tests among Republicans. But to date, Republicans who know him are not highly likely to show positive intensity in their views of him.

Romney has so far taken a low-key approach to his candidacy, avoiding the national spotlight and sticking to visits in the crucial early primary states such as New Hampshire, where he filmed his new "exploratory committee" YouTube video. He thus has the possibility to increase the positive intensity with which Republicans view him as he ramps up his campaign efforts in the months ahead. Visitors to Romney's new website see pictures and video of the former governor dressed in shirt sleeves, no doubt in an attempt to soften his stiff "suit and tie" image and increase the connection between him and potential voters.

Meanwhile, Republicans continue to feel most positive about Mike Huckabee, despite the fact that he has no exploratory committee and has avoided any statements suggesting that he is going to run for the presidency.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking March 28-April 10, 2011, with random samples of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Questions asking about the 14 potential candidates measured in this research were rotated among randomly selected samples of Republicans each night; over the 14-day period, each candidate was rated by a minimum of 1,500 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

For the overall ratings of each potential candidate among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, including recognition scores, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points. For the Positive Intensity Score for each candidate, the maximum margin of sampling error varies depending on the size of the group recognizing the candidate.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell phones numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both, cell phone mostly, and having an unlisted landline number). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147077/Romney-Not-Generating-Strong-Positive-Intensity.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

167-14. U.S. Economic Optimism Plummet in March

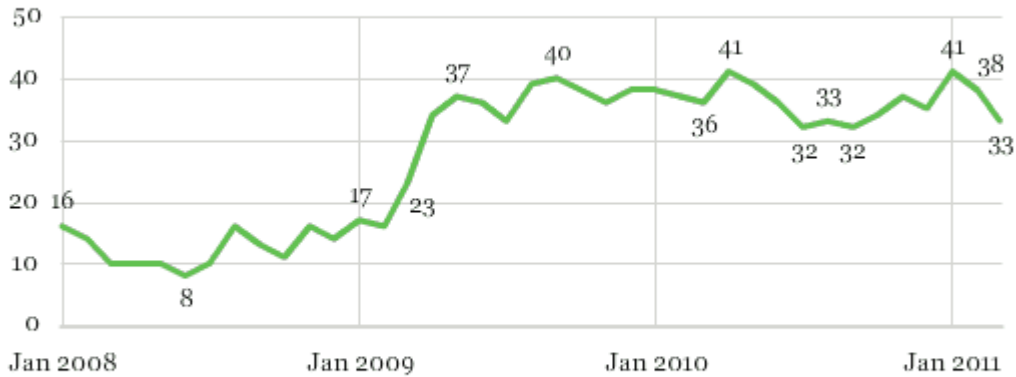
Confidence drops across income, gender, age, and political party categories

April 12, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' optimism about the future direction of the U.S. economy plunged in March for the second month in a row, as the percentage of Americans saying the economy is "getting better" fell to 33% -- down from 41% in January. It is also down three points from the 36% of March 2010.

Percentage of All Americans Saying Economy Is "Getting Better"

Monthly averages



Gallup Daily tracking

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Optimism in March essentially matches last year's low points: 32% in July, 33% in August, and 32% in September. However, it remains higher than it was throughout 2008 and early 2009.

Economic Optimism Declines Across Demographic Groups

While upper-income Americans remain more optimistic than their lower- and middle-income counterparts, optimism among both groups declined substantially in March. Despite Wall Street's strong first quarter performance, the percentage of upper-income Americans saying the economy is getting better fell to 41% in March from 50% in January, leaving it at the same level as a year ago. Lower- and middle-income Americans' economic optimism also fell in March, to 32%, from 40% in January.

Percentage Saying Economy Is Getting Better, by Income

- Lower- and middle-income Americans (those making less than \$90,000 per year)
- Upper-income Americans (those making \$90,000+ per year)

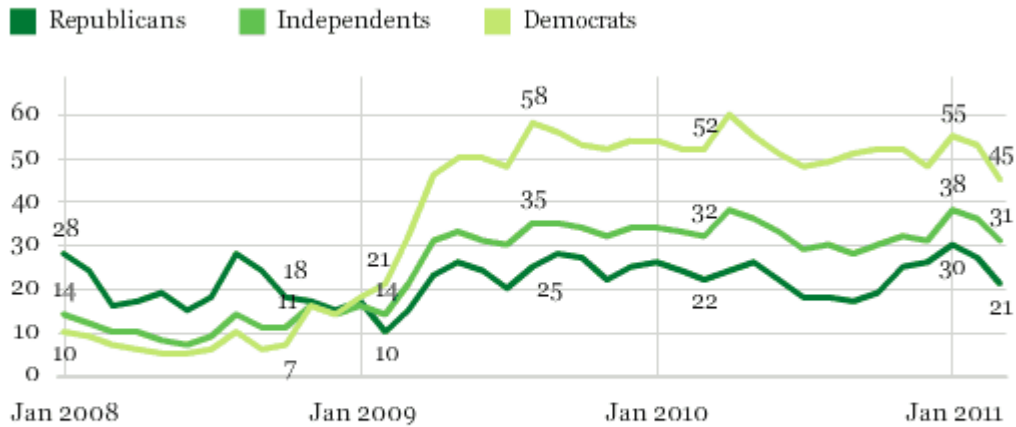


Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Optimism about the future of the economy declined across all political parties during the first quarter. Democrats remain the most optimistic, with 45% saying things are getting better, but this is down from 55% in January and 52% a year ago. Independents' economic optimism is at 31% and Republicans' at 21% -- both down from January.

Percentage Saying Economy Is Getting Better, by Party

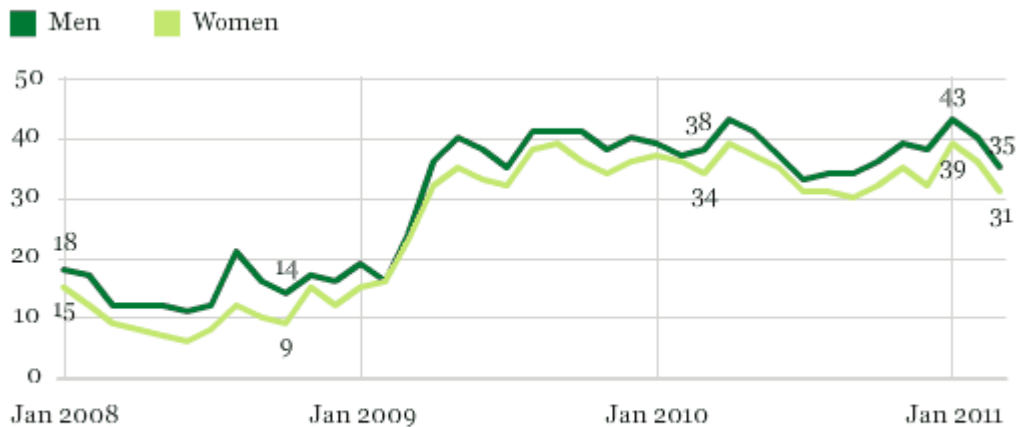


Gallup Daily tracking

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Men continue to be more optimistic than women in their expectations for the economy, but both genders are less optimistic now than in January and compared with March 2010.

Percentage Saying Economy Is Getting Better, by Gender



Gallup Daily tracking

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Americans of all ages also became less optimistic about the economy in March. Young adults continue to be much more optimistic, however, than do older Americans.

Percentage Saying Economy Is Getting Better, by Age



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

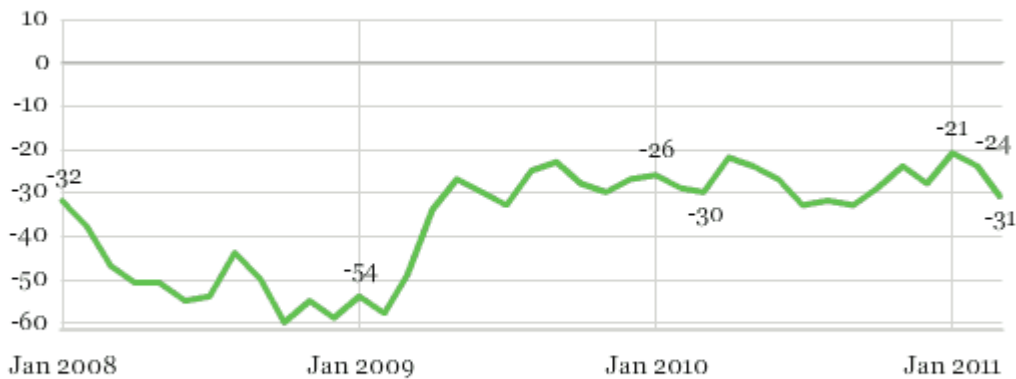
Gallup's Economic Confidence Index Also Takes a Plunge in March

Gallup's Economic Confidence Index, which includes the economic optimism measure, also plunged in March to -31. This is worse than the -21 in January and about the same as the -30 of a year ago.

The Index is based on two questions, which measure Americans' views of current economic conditions and their future expectations. The sharp decline in the latter brought down the index score in the first quarter of the year. Americans' perceptions of current economic conditions are not much different in March -- with 44% rating the economy "poor" -- than they were in January, when 42% said the same.

Economic Confidence Index, Monthly Averages

Combination of current economic conditions and economic outlook measures



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

Implications

Even as economic adversity seems to mount, the U.S. commodity and equity markets remain near their highs for the year. Surging oil and commodity prices mean higher profits for many

companies and investors. Further, a weak U.S. economy suggests the Federal Reserve will continue its easing policies despite some tightening in Europe. While the weakening of the global economy may not be good for U.S. exports, the declining U.S. dollar may moderate the negative impact on many U.S. exporters and their stock values.

On the other hand, American consumers face several major challenges. Soaring gas and food prices not only reduce disposable income but also discourage additional spending as the cost of necessities increases. Global events, continued political battles about the budget in the nation's capital, and a weak, if modestly improving job market add to consumer uncertainties. As a result, it is not surprising that consumer confidence plummets even as Wall Street continues to do well.

However, if consumers continue to lack confidence and spending doesn't increase, it is hard to see how the U.S. economy can continue its modest improvement. In turn, it would seem Wall Street and Main Street will have to align at some point going forward. Either Wall Street will prove right and economic conditions on Main Street will improve or the reverse will prove to be the case.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking during March 2011 with 15,561 respondents, 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 monthly sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 200 cell phone respondents and 800 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone-only status, cell phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147056/Economic-Optimism-Plummets-March.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA

167-15. Americans Oppose Eliminating Income Tax Deductions

Opposition high even when framed as part of plans to lower tax rates or reduce deficit

April 15, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans make it clear they want to keep common federal income tax deductions, regardless of whether the proposed elimination of those deductions is framed as part of a plan to lower the overall income tax rate or as a way to reduce the federal budget deficit. No more than one in three Americans favor eliminating any of the deductions in either scenario.

Would you favor or oppose eliminating each of the following tax deductions as part of a plan to [lower the overall federal income tax rate/reduce the federal budget deficit]?

	% Favor	% Oppose
"... To lower the overall income tax rate"		
Home mortgage interest	31	61
State and local taxes	30	62
Contributions to charities	26	71
"... To reduce the federal budget deficit"		
State and local taxes	33	58
Home mortgage interest	33	60
Contributions to charities	29	68

Note: Each version asked of a separate half sample
USA Today/Gallup, April 13, 2011

GALLUP

The results are based on a *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted April 13. Half of respondents were asked about eliminating the deductions as part of a plan to lower the overall tax rate and the other half were asked about eliminating the same deductions to reduce the federal budget deficit. The questions evoke similar levels of opposition to eliminating the deductions.

Budget plans that call for lower overall tax rates, such as the one proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan, would essentially require that popular deductions be eliminated, basically trading off one tax break for another. President Obama's commission on deficit reduction last December called for eliminating deductions, including the one for mortgage interest, as part of its plan (ultimately rejected) to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Americans are somewhat more likely to be opposed to eliminating the deduction for charitable contributions than those for mortgage interest and state and local taxes. Roughly 7 in 10 oppose eliminating the charity deduction, compared with about 6 in 10 who oppose getting rid of the mortgage interest and state and local tax deductions.

Many Americans Do Not Claim Deductions

If any of those deductions were taken away, substantial minorities of Americans would see no impact on their taxes, according to the poll. The percentage claiming any of the three deductions ranges from 43% for mortgage interest to 58% for state and local taxes.

Please tell me whether you, personally, claim each of the following deductions on your federal income tax return. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

	% Yes, claim	% No, do not claim
The deduction for state and local taxes	58	36
The deduction for contributions to charities	51	47
The deduction on home mortgage interest	43	55

USA Today/Gallup, April 13, 2011

GALLUP

As might be expected, those who claim each of these deductions are more likely to oppose eliminating them than are those who do not claim the deduction. But even among the latter group, opposition approaches or exceeds 50%.

More than three-quarters of Americans who claim either the mortgage interest deduction or the charitable contribution deduction oppose eliminating those deductions. Opposition is somewhat lower to eliminating the state and local tax deduction among those who claim it.

Favor/Oppose Eliminating Tax Deductions, by Whether Respondent Claims That Deduction

	% Favor	% Oppose
Mortgage interest		
Claim this deduction	21	77
Do not claim this deduction	39	49
Charitable contributions		
Claim this deduction	21	78
Do not claim this deduction	35	62
State and local taxes		
Claim this deduction	30	67
Do not claim this deduction	38	52

Note: Based on full sample; data from different forms combined, given similar results between each

USA Today/Gallup, April 13, 2011

GALLUP

Politically, Republicans are more likely to oppose eliminating the mortgage interest deduction than are Democrats or independents. Party differences are narrower in terms of the deductions for charitable gifts and state and local taxes paid.

Favor/Oppose Eliminating Tax Deductions, by Political Party

	% Favor	% Oppose
Mortgage interest		
Democrats	31	59
Independents	38	54
Republicans	23	72
Charitable contributions		
Democrats	24	72
Independents	31	65
Republicans	25	73
State and local taxes		
Democrats	29	60
Independents	36	58
Republicans	27	65

Note: Based on full sample; data from different forms combined, given similar results between each
USA Today/Gallup, April 13, 2011

GALLUP

Implications

As Congress and the president make deficit reduction a higher priority for the federal budget, Americans show solid opposition to eliminating common tax deductions. Opposition is high regardless of whether the elimination is designed to help lower the overall tax rate or reduce the deficit. This is the case even as Americans' concern about the budget deficit is increasing.

That means political leaders who favor getting rid of deductions as a way of reaching other fiscal goals likely would face a difficult challenge in getting the public to back that approach. The poll makes it clear that how the issue of eliminating tax deductions is framed makes little difference in how Americans respond to the idea.

The challenge is further complicated by the high levels of opposition to eliminating tax deductions among Americans who do not personally benefit from them, a group that in theory could be supportive since such moves would be unlikely to affect them directly.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 13, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,004 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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.

For results based on the sample of 491 national adults in Form C and 513 national adults in Form D, 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 and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell phones numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both, cell phone mostly, and having an unlisted landline number). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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

Polls conducted entirely in one day, such as this one, are subject to additional error or bias not found in polls conducted over several days.

Source:[http://www.gallup.com/poll/147125/Americans-Oppose-Eliminating-Income-Tax-Deductions.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas - Northern America - Politics - USA](http://www.gallup.com/poll/147125/Americans-Oppose-Eliminating-Income-Tax-Deductions.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA)

167-16. Americans Trust Governors, Business Leaders Most on Economy

President Obama comes in third, followed by Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress

April 14, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans have the most confidence in their state governor and in business leaders to do the right thing for the economy. President Obama comes in third, followed by Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke ties with congressional Democrats and ranks slightly higher than Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, Tea Party leaders, and labor union leaders.

As I read some names and groups, please tell me how much confidence you have in each to do or to recommend the right thing for the economy -- a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or almost none. How about -- ?

	Great deal/ Fair amount	Only a little/ Almost none
	%	%
The governor in your state	58	40
Business leaders	54	43
President Barack Obama	50	50
The Republican leaders in Congress	44	52
The Democratic leaders in Congress	41	55
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke	41	42
Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner	39	43
Tea Party movement leaders	38	52
Labor union leaders	38	57

April 7-11, 2011

GALLUP

The findings are from a Gallup poll conducted April 7-11, amid federal budget negotiations in Washington. Gallup has asked this question each year since 2001 for the president, congressional leaders, and the Federal Reserve chairman.

Confidence in President Obama on Economy Down Sharply from 2009

Americans' confidence in President Obama's ability to do the right thing for the U.S. economy is down to 50% from 54% a year ago and 71% in 2009.

Confidence in President Barack Obama on the Economy

■ % Great deal/Fair amount of confidence

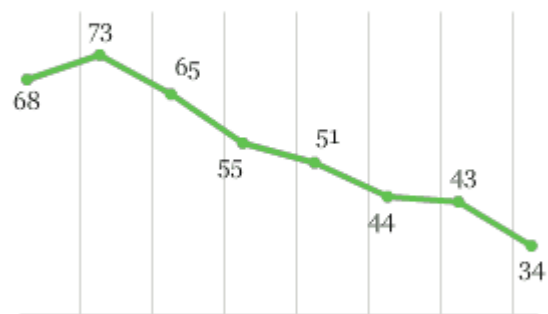


2008 wording: Senator Barack Obama

GALLUP

Confidence in President George W. Bush on the Economy

■ % Great deal/Fair amount of confidence



GALLUP

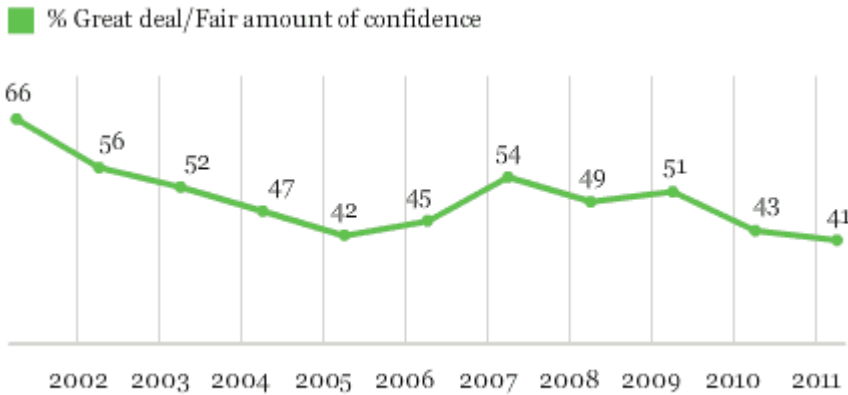
Although this is a steep drop in confidence for

Obama, to date it is not as bad as that experienced by his predecessor. Americans' confidence that President George W. Bush would do the right thing for the economy fell from 73% in 2002 to 55% in 2004 and 34% by 2008.

Confidence in Congressional Democrats on Economy at Decade Low

Americans' confidence that Democratic leaders in Congress will do the right thing for the economy is at 41% -- marking its lowest level of the past decade and a decline from 43% in 2010 and 51% in 2009. Democrats fared best in 2001, when 66% of Americans expressed confidence in them regarding the economy; the previous low was 42% in 2005.

Confidence in Democratic Leaders in Congress on the Economy

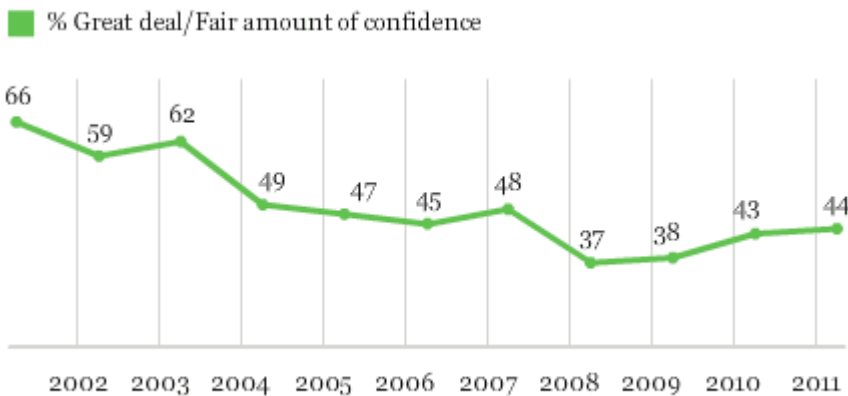


GALLUP®

Confidence in Congressional Republicans on Economy About Same as for Democrats

Americans' confidence in congressional Republican leaders on the economy, now at 44%, is trending up since 2009, when it was 38%. Republicans fared best in 2001, when 66% of Americans expressed confidence in them regarding the economy -- identical to confidence in Democrats that year -- and the previous low was 37% in 2008.

Confidence in Republican Leaders in Congress on the Economy



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Implications

While Democratic and Republican congressional leaders debate how to reduce the federal budget deficit and its economic implications, Americans' confidence that they will do the right thing for the U.S. economy is relatively low. The sharp drop in confidence in the president and

Democrats since 2009 combines with the modest increase in confidence in Republicans, leaving them all in the 40% to 50% confidence range.

Americans have relatively greater confidence in the governor of their state and in business leaders to do right by the economy. Many Americans may view positively the actions of many state governors to get their state budgets under control and enhance their competitiveness. They may also perceive state governors as doing more to address two of the nation's major challenges -- government spending and unemployment -- than lawmakers in the nation's capital.

Similarly, business leaders -- acting in their own self-interest -- are clearly trying to get the economy going and control the expansion of government regulation. These efforts may also be seen as addressing jobs and government spending.

Americans' relatively high trust in governors and business leaders on the economy suggests national policymakers may want to make more of an effort to listen to these leaders when considering efforts to help create new jobs and get the economy going. They seem to have ideas Americans like and ones that, if adopted, could help boost confidence in national leaders on the economy.

National political leaders may also want to be careful about discounting too quickly the ideas of labor and Tea Party leaders. Although these groups rank last in overall confidence concerning the economy, their ratings aren't much different from those Americans give their congressional leaders.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 7-11, 2011, with a random sample of 1,077 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

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Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147095/Americans-Trust-Governors-Business-Leaders-Economy.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA

167-17. Budget Rises as Most Important Problem to Highest Since '96

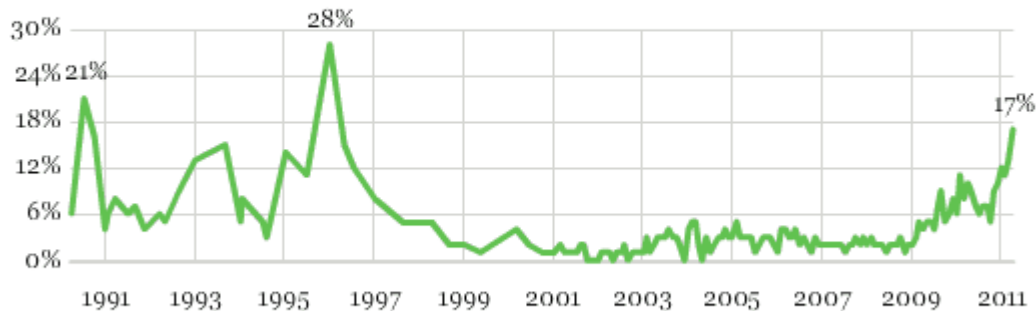
Mentions of unemployment decrease; economy remains the top problem

April 13, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- President Obama releases his plan to curb the federal deficit with Americans' concern about the federal budget and deficit growing to its highest level in 15 years. Currently, 17% say it is the most important problem facing the country, the highest Gallup has measured since it began asking the "most important problem" question on a monthly basis in 2001, and the highest in any Gallup poll since January 1996.

Mentions of the Federal Budget/Budget Deficit as the Most Important Problem Facing the United States

Trend since 1990



GALLUP

The April 7-11 poll was conducted in the final days of negotiations that led to a budget agreement late Friday night that averted a government shutdown, and in the initial days after the deal was reached. Americans were just as likely to mention the budget as the most important problem on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday as they were on Thursday and Friday.

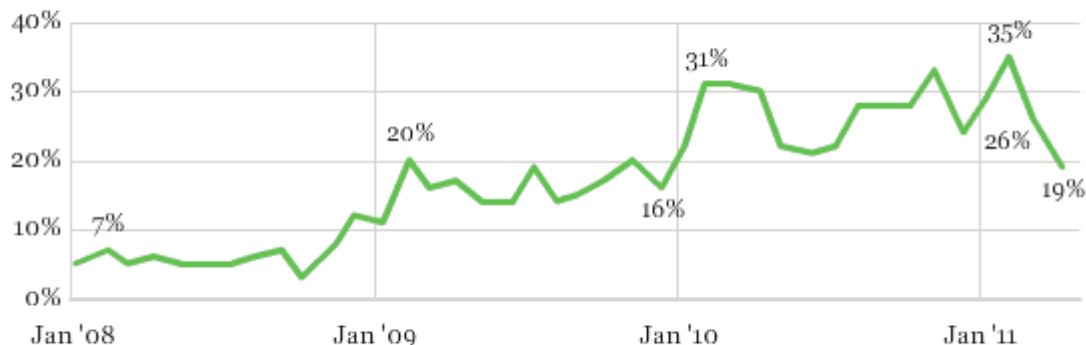
Americans' increasing likelihood to cite the federal budget as the most important problem could be a function of its status as a dominant issue in the news media. Gallup has historically found that it ranks low on the most important problem list, but it has risen at times when the president and Congress make it a major focus. This occurred during the 1990 negotiations on the budget between President George H.W. Bush and congressional Democrats on a plan to reduce the deficit that led to Bush's breaking his campaign promise not to raise taxes. It also happened during the budget standoff between President Bill Clinton and the Republicans in Congress in 1995 and 1996.

Unemployment Concerns Dropping, Economy Still the Leading Problem

At the same time that Americans' concerns about the budget and deficit are increasing, Americans are less likely to mention unemployment as the most important problem. Mentions of unemployment, at 19%, are down from 26% last month and the lowest since December 2009. This coincides with the more positive numbers on jobs and unemployment released by the government earlier this month.

Mentions of Unemployment as the Most Important Problem Facing the United States

Trend since 2008



GALLUP®

Neither unemployment nor the budget is Americans' top overall concern. That distinction belongs to the economy, by a significant margin over any other issue. The economy has placed first or second on the list each month since February 2008.

Americans' other major concerns include dissatisfaction with government, healthcare, education, and the wars. Despite the continuing increase in the price of gas, 5% of Americans mention fuel prices, essentially the same as last month (6%), and well below the percentage who have done so in other times when gas prices were high.

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

	% Mentioning
Economy in general	26
Unemployment	19
Federal budget deficit/Federal debt	17
Dissatisfaction with government	13
Healthcare	9
Education	6
Wars	6
Lack of money	5
Fuel/Oil prices	5
Ethical/Moral decline	4
Immigration	4

Gallup, April 7-11, 2011

GALLUP®

Democrats Less Concerned About the Budget

Republicans and Democrats mention the economy more frequently than any other issue as the nation's most important problem. Among independents, however, the budget and unemployment rank about as high as the economy.

Independents and Republicans are both twice as likely as Democrats to say the budget is the most important problem. In turn, Republicans are less likely than Democrats and independents to view unemployment as the top problem.

Most Important Problem, by Political Party

Democrats	Independents	Republicans
1. Economy (27%)	1. Economy (23%)	1. Economy (31%)
2. Unemployment (22%)	2. Federal budget (21%)	2. Federal budget (20%)
3. Dissatisf. w/gov't (11%)	3. Unemployment (20%)	3. Dissatisf. w/gov't (17%)
4. Healthcare (10%)	4. Dissatisf. w/gov't (11%)	4. Unemployment (14%)
5. Education (9%)	5. Healthcare (9%)	5. Ethical/Moral decline (10%)
5. Federal budget (9%)	6. Education (6%)	6. Healthcare (7%)

Gallup, April 7-11, 2011

GALLUP

All three party groups rate dissatisfaction with government as one of the most important problems for the United States, though Republicans are most likely to do so.

Republicans differ from the other party groups in viewing moral and ethical decline as an urgent problem -- 10% of Republicans mention this issue, compared with 2% of Democrats and independents.

Implications

Even though President Obama and the Republicans in Congress have agreed on a budget deal to avert a government shutdown, the issue will remain in the news now that the president has outlined his plan for addressing the deficit. In addition to that, the two sides will be grappling with legislation to raise the federal debt ceiling, which is projected to be exceeded in the coming weeks, in addition to working on the fiscal year 2012 budget.

Thus, the budget is likely to remain a top concern for Americans in the coming months, and could very well be a key policy issue in the 2012 presidential election campaign.

Even so, the health of the economy remains Americans' top concern overall and likely will continue to rate as a top problem until it improves significantly.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 7-11, 2011, with a random sample of 1,077 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

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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/147086/Budget-Rises-Most-Important-Problem-Highest.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

167-18. Budget Negotiations in a Word

All Sides Blamed After Close Call on Government Shutdown

April 11, 2011



The public has an overwhelmingly negative reaction to the budget negotiations that narrowly avoided a government shutdown.

A weekend survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the *Washington Post* finds that "ridiculous" is the word used most frequently to describe the budget negotiations, followed by "disgusting," "frustrating," "messy," "disappointing" and "stupid."

Budget Negotiations in a Word

	April 9-10 2011
	<i># of responses</i>
Ridiculous	29
Disgusting	22
Frustrating	14
Messy	14
Disappointing	13
Stupid	13
Bull****	12
Poor	7
Terrible	7
Childish	6
Fair	5
Horrible	5
Idiotic	5
Stinks	5
Chaotic	4
Confusing	4
Pathetic	4
Political	4
Slow	4
Sucks	4

Pew Research Center/Washington Post
April 7-10, 2011. Figures show actual
number of respondents who offered
each response; **these numbers are
not percentages.**

Overall, 69% of respondents use negative terms to describe the budget talks, while just 3% use positive words; 16% use neutral words to characterize their impressions of the negotiations.

Large majorities of independents (74%), Democrats (69%) and Republicans (65%) offer negative terms to describe the negotiations.

The full survey was conducted April 7-10 among 1,004 adults; people were asked their impressions of the budget talks in interviews conducted April 9-10, following the April 8 agreement that averted a government shutdown.

All of the principals in the budget showdown are blamed to some extent for the dispute that nearly resulted in the shutdown.

Nearly four-in-ten (37%) say they blame Republican congressional leaders "a lot" for the dispute, while 33% say Democratic congressional leaders deserve a lot of blame and 32% say the same about President Obama.

About a quarter (27%) say that representatives affiliated with the Tea Party movement deserve a lot of blame.

Solid majorities say all four principal players -- GOP leaders, Democratic leaders, Obama and Tea Party-affiliated representatives -- deserve at least some blame for the budget dispute.

Much smaller percentages say each deserves no blame: 23% Tea Party representatives; 22% Obama; 12% GOP leaders; and 11% Democratic leaders.

None of the Participants Escapes Blame for Budget Dispute

Blame for dispute that nearly led to gov't shutdown ...

	A lot	Some	None	DK
	%	%	%	%
President Obama	32	40	22	6=100
Democratic leaders in Congress	33	49	11	7=100
Republican leaders in Congress	37	44	12	8=100
Reps. affiliated w/ the Tea Party movement	27	37	23	13=100

Pew Research Center /Washington Post April 7-10, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Tea Party, Obama Blamed More After Budget Agreement

Blame for dispute that nearly led to gov't shutdown ...

	A lot/some	None	DK
	%	%	%
Tea Party representatives			
Before agreement	58	26	16=100
After agreement	72	19	9=100
Change	+14	-7	
President Obama			
Before agreement	66	26	7=100
After agreement	79	17	5=100
Change	+13	-9	
Democratic leaders			
Before agreement	77	15	8=100
After agreement	87	7	6=100
Change	+10	-8	
Republican leaders			
Before agreement	80	44	10=100
After agreement	80	44	6=100
Change	0	0	

Pew Research Center /Washington Post April 7-10, 2011. Before agreement (conducted April 7-8), 577 respondents were asked about blame if government shuts down; after agreement (conducted April 9-10), 427 respondents were asked about dispute that nearly led to shutdown. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Opinions about how much blame the participants deserve changed after the agreement was concluded.

In interviewing conducted prior to the deal (April 7-8), 58% said that Tea Party representatives would deserve either a lot or some blame if the government shut down.

In polling conducted April 9-10, the number saying Tea Party representatives deserve a least some blame for the dispute jumped to 72%.

More also blamed Obama and Democratic leaders after the agreement than before it. In early interviewing, 66% said that Obama would deserve at least some blame for a possible government shutdown; after the agreement 79% expressed that view.

Blame for Democratic leaders rose 10 points (from 77% to 87%) after the budget deal.

Criticism for Tea Party representatives increased among the GOP base after the budget agreement.

In polling before the agreement, 40% of Republicans and GOP leaners said Tea Party representatives would deserve some blame if the government shut down.

After the agreement, however, 61% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said that Tea Party representatives in Congress deserved at least some blame for the dispute that nearly led to the shutdown.

Democrats grew more critical of Obama after the budget deal was concluded. Prior to the agreement, 51% of Democrats and Democratic leaners said Obama would deserve a lot or some blame if the government shut down.

Following the agreement, 69% of Democrats and Democratic leaners said Obama deserved at least some blame for the budget dispute.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1961/budget-negotiations-in-a-word-ridiculous>

167-19. Americans Back Budget Deal but Declare No Winner

Split on whether next year's budget should further cut domestic spending

April 13, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Six in 10 Americans approve of the 11th-hour federal budget agreement that congressional leaders reached in time to avert a government shutdown. Support for the deal made on Friday is somewhat higher among Democrats than among independents and Republicans, 71% vs. 60% and 58%, respectively.

Reaction to Federal Budget Agreement

As you may know, Democratic and Republican leaders reached an agreement late Friday night on the federal budget, avoiding a federal government shutdown. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of that agreement?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
	%	%	%
National adult	62	25	13
Democrats	71	18	11
Independents	60	25	15
Republicans	58	32	10

USA Today/Gallup, April 11, 2011

GALLUP

Few Americans see a political winner in the outcome -- with 5% saying it was a victory specifically for the Democrats, 8% specifically for the Republicans, and 20% for both. Rather,

the majority of Americans, 56%, say the long-negotiated compromise was not a victory for either side.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to believe their own party was victorious -- 16% vs. 6% -- however, the majority of both groups believe neither side won.

Who Won in Budget Agreement?

Based on what you have heard or read about the budget agreement, do you think it was a victory for the Democrats, a victory for the Republicans, a victory for both sides, or not a victory for either side?

	Victory for Democrats	Victory for Republicans	Victory for both	Victory for neither	No opinion
	%	%	%	%	%
National adults	5	8	20	56	12
Democrats	6	5	24	54	11
Independents	3	5	19	59	14
Republicans	6	16	17	54	7

USA Today/Gallup, April 11, 2011

GALLUP

Partisans Disagree Over 2012 Budget Solutions

With one budget crisis behind them, Congress now finds itself staring at three potentially bigger challenges: passing the 2011-2012 federal budget, the prospect of raising the federal debt ceiling, and achieving long-term deficit reduction.

Americans offer different reactions to the Democrats' and Republicans' rival approaches to balancing the federal budget. They are generally supportive of raising taxes on households earning \$250,000 and above, a key Democratic proposal. They are evenly split over making significant additional cuts to domestic programs, a major aspect of Republican Rep. Paul Ryan's "Path to Prosperity" budget proposal.

Republicans and Democrats largely support their own party's approach and oppose the alternative option, foreshadowing the difficulty party leaders in Washington will have in reaching consensus. Most Democrats and the majority of independents favor higher taxes on households earning above \$250,000, while the majority of Republicans oppose this.

Support for Higher Taxes on Upper-Income Americans

Looking ahead to next year's federal budget, do you think it should or should not include higher taxes for families with household incomes of \$250,000 and above?

	Yes, should	No, should not	No opinion
	%	%	%
National adults	59	37	4
Democrats	78	19	2
Independents	60	37	3
Republicans	37	60	3

USA Today/Gallup, April 11, 2011

GALLUP'

More than 6 in 10 Republicans favor further cutting domestic programs. About the same proportion of Democrats oppose this, as do nearly half of independents.

Support for Significant Additional Cuts to Domestic Programs

Looking ahead to next year's federal budget, do you think it should or should not include significant additional cuts in spending on domestic programs

	Yes, should	No, should not	No opinion
	%	%	%
National adults	45	47	8
Democrats	31	60	9
Independents	44	48	8
Republicans	64	31	5

USA Today/Gallup, April 11, 2011

GALLUP'

Don't Mess With Medicare

Ryan's budget proposes to completely restructure Medicare, replacing the current single-payer system administered by the government with an insurance premium subsidy system for seniors to buy private health insurance. Americans' general reaction to changing Medicare -- even when described as a way to control program costs -- is not positive. Thirty-one percent would like to see either a complete overhaul of Medicare or major changes made to the program, while a combined 61% say the government should make only minor changes or not try to control Medicare costs.

Support for revamping Medicare is essentially no higher among Republicans than among Democrats, 34% vs. 30%, and Republicans are actually the more likely of the two groups to favor not controlling Medicare costs (33% vs. 21%).

Preferred Approach to Medicare

Do you think the government should completely overhaul Medicare to control the cost of the program, make major changes to Medicare but not completely overhaul it, make minor changes to Medicare, or should the government not try to control the costs of Medicare?

	Completely overhaul	Major changes	Minor changes	Not try to control costs	No opinion
	%	%	%	%	%
National adults	13	18	34	27	8
Democrats	8	22	46	21	3
Independents	14	16	29	29	12
Republicans	14	20	28	33	4

USA Today/Gallup, April 11, 2011

GALLUP

Bottom Line

Americans mostly approve of Friday's budget agreement that will keep the federal government running through September, but few say it was a victory for either party. Whether this is because of the messy politics involved in reaching it, or because the \$38.5 billion in spending cuts was not, in fact, a complete victory for either party, is not clear.

Republican and Democratic leaders are making considerable noise about the federal debt, and Americans share this concern. President Obama is expected to spell out his vision for reducing the national debt in a White House speech Wednesday afternoon, and Republicans are expected to press for dramatic deficit reduction in the looming negotiations over raising the debt ceiling. With a divided Congress, the challenge will be, once again, to strike a compromise between Democrats' calls for higher taxes on the wealthy and Republicans' calls for deeper domestic spending cuts. At this stage, the Democrats' position seems to have the greater public appeal.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 11, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,004 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-selection methods.

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number, and cell phone mostly. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147080/Americans-Back-Budget-Deal-Declare-No-Winner.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

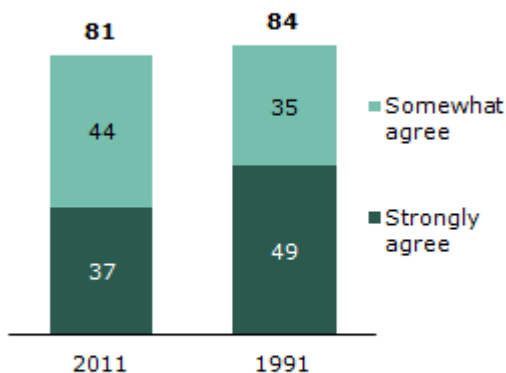
167-20. Home Sweet Home. Still

Five Years After the Bubble Burst

April 12, 2011

Still the Best Investment

% who agree that buying a home is the best long-term investment a person can make



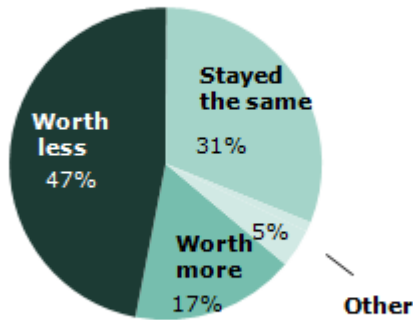
Note: 2011 results are from Pew Research survey conducted Mar15-29, N=2,142. 1991 results are from CBS News/New YorkTimes, April 1991.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q.48

The five-year swoon in home prices has done little to shake the confidence of the American public in the investment value of homeownership. Fully eight-in-ten (81%) adults agree that buying a home is the best long-term investment a person can make, according a nationwide Pew Research Center survey of 2,142 adults conducted from March 15 to March 29, 2011.

There has been some falloff in the intensity of the public's faith. Today, 37% "strongly agree" while 44% "somewhat agree" that homeownership is the best investment a person can make. When this same question was asked two decades ago in a CBS News/*New York Times* survey, 49% "strongly agreed" and 35% "somewhat agreed."

Homeowners Assess Value of their Home Since Start of Recession



Note: Based on homeowners, n=1,222.

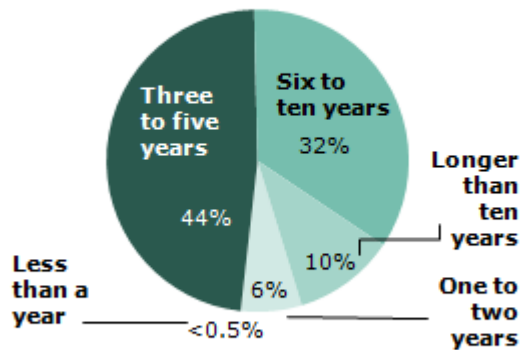
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q.55

Even so, confidence at any level these days is notable, given that the housing market is mired in the longest and deepest decline in modern American history. Home prices are down by 31% from their pre-recession peak in July 2006, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Index.¹ After a pause last year, prices fell again in the first quarter of 2011.

Homeowners are not blind to what has happened to home prices, nor are they expecting a speedy recovery. Among the 1,222 homeowners in the nationwide Pew Research Center telephone survey, about half (47%) say their home is worth less now than before the recession began, and 31% say its value has stayed the same. Just 17% say their home is worth more.

The Long Recovery

How long will it take for home value to recover?



Note: Based on homeowners whose home is worth less now than before the recession, n=581.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q.56

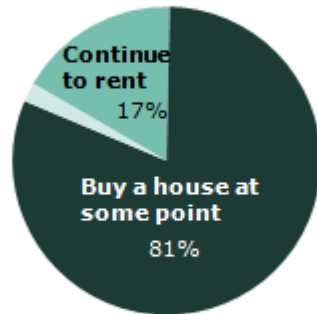
Of those who say their home has lost value, 86% say they expect it to take at least three years for values to recover to pre-recession levels; 42% say it will take at least six years; and 10% say it will take more than 10 years.

Still, fully 82% of homeowners who say their home is worth less now than before the recession began either strongly (37%) or somewhat (45%) agree that homeownership is the best long-term investment a person can make. Among homeowners whose home increased in value

during the recession, this confidence is even more pronounced. Half (49%) strongly and 41% somewhat agree with this view.

Rent or Buy?

What current renters would like to do in the future



Note: Based on renters, n=610. Don't know/Refused responses are shown but not labeled.

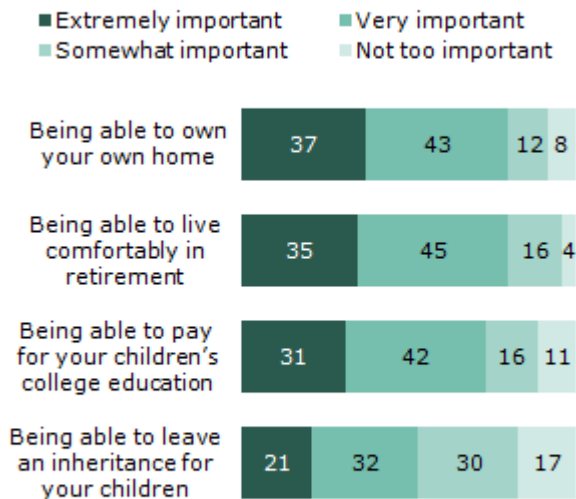
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q.52

Overall, homeowners are more positive than renters about the financial wisdom of owning a home; 41% of homeowners strongly agree that this is the best long-term investment a person can make, compared with just 31% of renters. (The survey sample included 57% of respondents who own a home and 30% who are renters; the remainder has other arrangements, such as living with family members.)

But renters are hardly immune to the allure of homeownership, even in the face of the five-year decline in prices. Asked if they rent out of choice or because they cannot afford to buy a home, just 24% say they rent out of choice. And when renters are asked if they would like to continue to rent or if they would prefer one day to buy a home, 81% say they would like to buy.

Long-Term Financial Goals

% saying that these goals are ...



Note: Based on respondents who gave a valid answer.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q.11

More evidence of the durability of Americans' belief in homeownership comes from a question in which respondents are asked to assess the importance of four long-term financial goals. Homeownership and "being able to live comfortably in retirement" are rated the highest; each is seen as being extremely or very important by 80% of respondents. Nearly as many (73%) say the same about being able to pay for their children's college education, and about half (53%) say the same about being able to leave an inheritance for their children. (These percentages do not include those who volunteered a "does not apply" response).

The Pew Research survey did find that nearly a quarter (23%) of all homeowners say that if they had it to do all over again, they would not buy their current home. But six-in-ten who express these pangs of "buyer's remorse" cite complaints about the home itself (43%) or the location (17%). Just 31% cite financial factors. Of these, about half (16%) say their home has either lost value or failed to rise in value; others point to changes in the economy or their own financial circumstances.

The Bubble and its Aftereffects

The collapse in home prices since 2006 came on the heels of a 10-year period during which they more than doubled, rising by an unprecedented 137% from 1996 to 2006.² However, much of this run-up was a classic market "bubble," fueled by excesses and fraud in the mortgage industry. When the bubble burst, financial markets melted down and the Great Recession (December 2007-June 2009) began.

During its dramatic ascent, the bubble generated big changes in consumer behavior. The home is the biggest asset for most Americans, and the run-up in home prices created what economists call a "wealth effect" that led to surges in consumer spending and borrowing that proved unsustainable. Once the bubble burst, those tendencies were curtailed.

Whatever other impacts it has had on the public and the economy, the bubble may partly explain

the resilience of Americans' faith in homeownership as an investment. Despite the sharp market declines of the past five years, the typical homeowner who has owned a home since 2002 or before still has seen its value rise. Not surprisingly, the Pew Research survey finds that the longer people have owned their home, the more likely they are to believe in the investment value of homeownership.

The big rise in home prices in the late 1990s and early 2000s may also explain this survey finding: Even with the five-year swoon in home prices, two-thirds of the public say that homeownership is not affordable to most young adults in their 20s and 30s. (This judgment may also reflect the public's recognition of the high current levels of unemployment among young adults.)

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1960/homeownership-still-thought-best-long-term-investment-by-big-majority>

167-21. Americans Decry Power of Lobbyists, Corporations, Banks, Feds

Independents agree with GOP that federal government has too much power

April 11, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Lobbyists, major corporations, banks, and the federal government all have too much power, according to Americans. By contrast, the public largely believes state and local governments, the legal system, organized religion, and the military each have the right amount of power or too little power. Labor unions elicit mixed responses, with the plurality saying they have too much power, but a slim majority saying their power is about right or lacking.

Perceived Power of Major U.S. Societal Entities

As I read off each of the following, please tell me whether you think it has too much power, about the right amount of power, or not enough power.

	Too much	About right	Not enough	Net "too much" ^
	%	%	%	In pct. pts.
Lobbyists	71	13	8	+63
Major corporations	67	21	9	+58
Banks and financial institutions	67	23	8	+59
The federal government in Washington	58	30	9	+49
Labor unions	43	28	24	+19
The government in your state	34	49	15	+19
The courts, legal system, and judges	34	49	14	+20
Organized religion and churches	25	46	24	+1
The municipal or local government where you live	22	53	21	+1
The military	14	53	28	-14

^ % "too much" minus % "not enough"

March 25-27, 2011

GALLUP®

The findings come from a Gallup poll conducted March 25-27.

While relatively few Americans believe any of these major societal players have too little power, roughly one in four say labor unions, organized religion, and the military are deficient in this regard. Only about the military do more people say it has too little rather than too much power, 28% vs. 14%.

Federal Government, Unions Sharply Divide Partisans

Heated debates over the power of government and labor unions have dominated U.S. political news this year. Several state governors are in conflict with public employee unions over how much power unions should have in the collective bargaining process, while on the federal level, Republicans have been battling with Democrats over the proper size and scope of government.

Not surprisingly, rank-and-file Republicans and Democrats have sharply diverging views about the power wielded by the federal government and labor unions. Republicans are more than twice as likely as Democrats to say the federal government has too much power, and less than half as likely to say it has too little power, resulting in very different net "too much power" scores: +68 for Republicans vs. +16 for Democrats.

The partisan differences are even starker with respect to labor unions. Republicans are significantly more likely to think unions have too much power rather than too little power, resulting in a net +59 "too much power" rating. Democrats, on balance, think unions have too little power, with a -19 net rating.

The political views of independents typically fall halfway between Republicans' and Democrats' views, and that is the case with respect to perceptions of the power of labor unions. Forty-seven percent of independents say labor unions have too much power, close to the average of Republicans' 69% and Democrats' 20%. By contrast, independents' views about the power of the federal government are remarkably close to Republicans': 67% of independents and 75% of Republicans say the federal government has too much power, versus 34% of Democrats.

Perceptions of Federal Government and Labor Union Power

By party ID

	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
	%	%	%
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT			
Too much power	75	67	34
Right amount of power	17	26	45
Not enough power	7	4	18
Net "too much power"	+68	+63	+16
LABOR UNIONS			
Too much power	69	47	20
Right amount of power	17	28	38
Not enough power	10	21	39
Net "too much power"	+59	+26	-19 [^]

[^]Net negative rating indicates more Democrats think unions have too little rather than too much power

March 25-27, 2011

GALLUP'

Democrats are somewhat more likely than Republicans to see organized religion, the military, major corporations, and banks as too powerful. The two party groups' views on the courts, lobbyists, local government, and state government are about the same.

Percentage Saying Entities Have "Too Much Power" -- by Party ID

Ranked by Republican vs. Democrats ^

	Repub- licans	Indepen- dents	Demo- crats	Republicans vs. Democrats ^
	%	%	%	pct. pts.
Labor unions	69	47	20	+49
Federal government	75	67	34	+41
Courts/Legal system/Judges	37	36	29	+8
Lobbyists	70	75	68	+2
Local government	16	25	22	-6
State government	28	38	35	-7
Banks/Financial institutions	58	70	70	-12
Major corporations	56	69	73	-17
Military	5	14	22	-17
Organized religion	12	27	34	-22

^ Reflects percentage of Republicans saying "too much power" minus percentage of Democrats saying this
March 25-27, 2011

GALLUP'

Bottom Line

Americans generally agree that lobbyists, major corporations, and banks have too much power, potentially making them vulnerable to calls for greater regulation. The federal government is close behind, with 58% calling it too powerful -- including large majorities of Republicans and independents.

Attitudes about labor unions are the most ambiguous of all 10 entities measured: while nearly half of Americans (43%) say unions have too much power, a fairly hefty 24% say they have too little power, leaving just 28% who consider their power about right.

The survey results highlight the major gulf between Democrats' and Republicans' views on unions and the federal government. Republicans are highly likely to say both have too much power, while Democrats are much less likely to believe either has too much power and, in fact, tend to believe unions have too little power.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted March 25-27, 2011, with a random sample of 1,027 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/147026/Americans-Decry-Power-Lobbyists-Corporations-Banks-Feds.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

[Feds.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA](http://www.gallup.com/poll/147026/Americans-Decry-Power-Lobbyists-Corporations-Banks-Feds.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA)

167-22. Most Voters Disagree with Major Medicare Change Proposal

55% disagree with lump payments to purchase private insurance

April 12, 2011

UTICA, NY – A majority of likely voters does not agree with a major change to the Medicare program proposed last week by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) that would provide Medicare beneficiaries a lump sum that could be used to buy insurance on the private market. They are more evenly split on Ryan’s proposal to covert Medicaid to a block grant program.

The IBOPE Zogby International interactive poll conducted on April 5-7 describes a main component of the plan Ryan announced last week to cut costs to Medicare, and asked voters if they agreed or disagreed with it.

Do you agree or disagree that the current Medicare program should be changed to provide those eligible for Medicare with a lump sum amount of money they would use to buy healthcare insurance on the private market?

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	32%	12%	54%	30%
Disagree	55%	80%	29%	57%
Not sure	13%	8%	17%	13%

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

Do you agree or disagree with converting the Medicaid program from the current system in which states and the federal government share oversight and funding responsibilities to a system of federal block grants to state governments, who would then decide how to allocate the grant funds to Medicaid recipients?

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	41%	21%	62%	40%
Disagree	45%	69%	21%	45%
Not sure	14%	10%	17%	15%

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

The survey also asked several additional questions about Medicare and Medicaid to gauge concerns about current costs and how changes might impact beneficiaries.

How concerned are you that the lump sum the federal government would provide to Medicare recipients would fall far short of the cost of healthcare insurance for older Americans, and make their paying for coverage a hardship?

Response	All	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
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	voters			
Very or somewhat concerned	78%	92%	61%	81%
Somewhat or not at all concerned	16%	5%	27%	15%
Not sure	7%	3%	13%	4%

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

How concerned are you that the current and future costs of Medicare to taxpayers are not sustainable?

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Very or somewhat concerned	88%	80%	96%	89%
Somewhat or not at all concerned	10%	18%	3%	9%
Somewhat or not at all concerned	2%	2%	1%	3%

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

Do you agree or disagree that the rising costs to taxpayers of the Medicaid program can only be controlled by putting a cap on total Medicaid expenditures?

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	49%	30%	69%	49%
Disagree	39%	60%	19%	38%
Not sure	12%	10%	13%	13%

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

Do you agree or disagree that if states are given total control of how federal Medicaid funds are spent, some states will drastically cut Medicaid benefits and many low-income people will not receive adequate healthcare?

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Agree	61%	86%	35%	60%
Disagree	32%	11%	52%	35%
Not sure	7%	3%	13%	5%

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

Generational Differences

There is not a great difference in total agreement or concern responses for any of the questions based on age of the voters. There is one large difference of intensity of opinion, as 61% of those 65 and older are very concerned lump sum Medicare payments would cause a hardship, compared to just 36% among those 18-29 who say the same.

The interactive poll of 2,109 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.2%. A sampling of IBOPE 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/2011/04/12/ibo-pe-zogby-interactive-most-voters-disagree-major-medicare-change-proposal/>

167-23. Voters Remain Gloomy About Finances, Ability to Buy & Whether Economy Has Bottomed Out

April 11, 2011

Voters Split on Giving Credit to Stimulus for Unemployment Drop

UTICA, NY - An IBOPE Zogby Interactive poll of likely voters, conducted April 5-7, finds only about one-third feeling better about their personal finances and the national economy.

When asked if they agree or disagree that they are more confident about their household financial condition and likely to make purchases they have been putting off, 33% say they agree. This breaks out as 7% strongly agreeing and 26% somewhat agreeing.

Also, only 30% believe "the U.S. economy has bottomed out and will get better", while 44% instead believe "the U.S. economy continues to worsen." Another 19% say neither description was accurate.

A third question addresses the impact made by the economic stimulus bill passed by Congress in 2009. Respondents read the following statement:

"The U.S. economy added 216,000 jobs in March and the official unemployment rate continued to go down, and is now at 8.8%. How much credit do you believe the economic stimulus bill passed by Congress, which included both spending and tax cuts, should get for the increase in jobs and the drop in unemployment?"

Response	%
A great deal of credit	16%
Some credit	31%
No credit at all	49%
Not sure	5%

Opinion on this question is sharply split on party lines, with 74% of Republicans giving the stimulus no credit at all. Among Democrats, 71% give the stimulus a great deal (30%) or some (41%) credit.

Significant differences based on ideology exist among the other two questions on economic perceptions. Among Republicans, just 22% agree they are more confident about their finances and 14% believe the economy has bottomed out and will get better. Among Democrats, 43% agree they are more confident about their financial situations and 46% say the economy has bottomed out and will get better.

The interactive poll of 2,109 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.2%. A sampling of IBOPE 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.

ABOUT IBOPE Zogby International

IBOPE Zogby International is a non-partisan, premier global public opinion polling and market research firm that offers timely, accurate results and in-depth analysis and insights. IBOPE Zogby International works with issue experts in a vast array of fields including healthcare, technology, finance, insurance, energy, agriculture, public affairs, and media who offer insightful data analysis and exceptional service to clients in countries throughout the world. IBOPE Zogby International experts analyze data and work with clients to develop and implement new strategies, and offer customized and attractive solutions to challenges our clients face. IBOPE Zogby International was formed in January 2010 following the acquisition of Zogby International by IBOPE Inteligencia of Brazil, a subsidiary of IBOPE Group.

Source: <http://www.zogby.com/news/2011/04/11/ibope-zogby-interactive-voters-remain-gloomy-about-finances-ability-buy-whether-economy-has-bottomed/>

167-24. New Facts About Families

Recent Findings on Family Meals, Cohabitation and Divorce

April 8, 2011

More than 2,000 demographers, sociologists and others converged on Washington, D.C., recently for the Population Association of America's annual meeting. Among the poster sessions and papers presented were some that dispute the popular (or academic) wisdom about important aspects of family life. Three are described here, along with Pew Research Center survey findings that bear on the topics they cover -- family meals, cohabitation and divorce.

Conference presentations are typically works-in-progress, to be revised as more information becomes available or challenges to their methodology are resolved. They are not the final word on these topics, and should not be taken as the new conventional wisdom. But they raise valuable questions about substantive issues.

Family Meals

Take family meals, for example. Everybody knows that children turn out better if they grow up in a home where the family gathers around the dinner table each night, right? Not so fast, according to a poster presented by researchers from Boston University and Columbia University. They used data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study to ask whether academic performance and behavior of children from kindergarten through eighth grade could be linked to how often they ate breakfast or dinner with their families. (They accounted for -- in research parlance, "controlled for" -- factors such as family income and school quality that also could affect their results.)

The research suggests "that there is little or no average effect of [family meal frequency] on child cognitive and behavioral outcomes during the period from kindergarten to eighth grade." Previous studies may not be wrong, but their results "should be interpreted with caution," according to Daniel P. Miller and Wen-Jui Han. The two acknowledge that their research did not look at older teenagers; earlier research has suggested that adolescents who often have family meals are less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol or to have behavior problems.

A recent Pew Research Center report on family issues includes some data on frequency of family meals, taken from a survey of adults last October. Among parents of children under age 18, half say they have dinner every day with some or all of their children, 34% say they have family meals a few times a week, 11% say they do so occasionally and 3% say they never do.

Cohabitation

On the topic of cohabitation, everybody knows that couples who live together before marriage are more likely to divorce than couples who do not, because that is what much research has found. But some recent work disputes that conclusion. Now that most couples move in together before they marry, cohabitation may not be as linked to divorce as it was when live-in couples were less common.

The Pew Research Center report on families, released last year, found that 44% of adults (and more than half of 30- to 49-year-olds) say they have cohabited at some point. Nearly two-thirds of adults who ever cohabited (64%) say they thought about it as a step toward marriage. The report also notes a trend toward rising public acceptance of cohabiting couples over the years. Most Americans now say the rise in unmarried couples living together either makes no difference to society (46%) or is good for society (9%).

A paper by Bowling Green State University researchers, using data from the National Survey of Family Growth, concluded that among women who married since the mid-1990s, cohabitation is not tied to heightened risk of divorce. Looking at women who married in the past

15 years, "our work shows that cohabitation no longer influences marital instability," wrote researchers Wendy D. Manning and Jessica A. Cohen in the paper they presented at the population meeting.

Divorce

An abundance of research about divorce links it to increased risk of problems for children both in the immediate aftermath of the split and later on in life. In fact, the phrase "intergenerational transmission of divorce" is used to describe the elevated risk of divorce among children whose parents divorced. But in certain cases, a parent's divorce does not raise the risk that their children's marriages or cohabitations will break up, according to a paper by researchers at Montclair State University.

Using data from the National Survey of Families and Households, Constance T. Gager and Miriam R. Linver compared the relationship paths of adult children who grew up in different types of households. They focused especially on children whose parents often argued. In general, having "high conflict parents" is associated with a child's higher risk of divorce in adulthood, but the researchers concluded that it also matters whether the parents stay together or split up. They wrote: "Our key findings are that children who had high conflict parents are less likely to have experienced a cohabiting or marital dissolution if their parents divorced compared to children from high conflict families whose parents remained together."

A 2007 Pew Research Center report found that most Americans (58%) think that divorce is preferable to staying in an unhappy marriage. A larger majority (67%) says that in a marriage where the parents are very unhappy with each other, the children are better off if their parents get divorced; 19% say the children are better off if their parents stay together; and 9% say it depends.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1959/family-meals-cohabitation-divorce-new-findings-contradict-conventional-wisdom>

167-25. Tea Party: Better Known, Less Popular

More Negative Views Among Independents, Moderate Republicans
April 8, 2011

Changing Views of the Tea Party

	Mar 2010	Nov 2010	Apr 2011	Mar-Apr change
Total	%	%	%	
Agree	24	27	22	-2
Disagree	14	22	29	+15
No opinion/Not heard/DK	62	50	49	-13
Republican				
Agree	45	52	42	-3
Disagree	4	5	8	+4
No opinion/Not heard/DK	51	42	50	-1
Democrat				
Agree	6	5	4	-2
Disagree	24	43	51	+27
No opinion/Not heard/DK	70	51	44	-26
Independent				
Agree	26	28	27	+1
Disagree	14	19	27	+13
No opinion/Not heard/DK	60	52	47	-13

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

As the Tea Party has evolved from a grassroots movement to become a major force on Capitol Hill, public views of the Tea Party have grown more negative. Slightly more disagree with the Tea Party than agree with the movement -- a reversal in public evaluations from a year ago.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 30-April 3, among 1,507 adults, finds that 29% say they disagree with the Tea Party, while fewer (22%) agree; nearly half (49%) say they do not have an opinion either way. Since last March, the percentage saying they disagree with the movement has grown 15 points while the percentage saying they agree with the Tea Party has remained mostly unchanged (24% March 2010, 22% April 2011.).

The rise in negative views of the Tea Party has occurred largely among political independents and Democrats. Last March, more independents agreed than disagreed with the Tea Party by a 26%-to-14% margin. Today, as many independents disagree as agree with the Tea Party (27% each); the percentage disagreeing with the Tea Party has risen 13 points.

As Democrats have become more aware of the Tea Party, negative views have increased dramatically. In March 2010, just 24% of Democrats said they disagreed with the movement -- a percentage that has more than doubled into a 51%-majority opinion today. Very few Democrats - now, or at any point over the last year -- say they agree with the Tea Party.

Moderate Republicans' Mixed Views of the Tea Party

	Mar 2010	Nov 2010	Apr 2011	Mar-Apr change
Mod/Lib Reps	%	%	%	
Agree	27	28	18	-9
Disagree	5	9	16	+11
No opinion/Not heard/DK	68	62	65	-3
Cons Reps				
Agree	53	64	53	0
Disagree	3	3	5	+2
No opinion/Not heard/DK	44	32	42	-2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

—Republicans have consistently been far more likely to agree than disagree with the Tea Party (currently: 42% agree, 8% disagree). Positive views were especially high immediately following Republican gains in the 2010 midterm elections, when 52% said they agreed with the Tea Party. A consistent positive balance of opinion notwithstanding, the Tea Party does not register with fully half of Republicans: 50% do not offer an opinion of the movement either way -- almost identical to the 51% who did not offer an opinion in March 2010.

Currently, moderate and liberal Republicans are as likely to agree (18%) as disagree (16%) with the Tea Party; most (65%) do not offer an opinion of the movement. In March 2010, the Tea Party was seen in a far more favorable light by non-conservative Republicans. By a 27%-to-5% margin, more agreed than disagreed with the movement.

Conservative Republicans have consistently expressed more positive views of the Tea Party than have the party's moderates and liberals. And there has been no change in conservatives' opinions of the Tea Party over the past year. Currently, 53% of conservative Republicans agree with the Tea Party, while just 5% disagree; 42% have no opinion. In March 2010, 53% of conservative Republicans agreed with the Tea Party, 3% disagreed and 44% had no opinion.

Source: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1956/tea-party-declining-popularity-democrats-independents-moderate-republicans>

167-26. Civil War at 150: Still Relevant, Still Divisive

April 8, 2011

As the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War approaches, most Americans say the war between the North and South is still relevant to American politics and public life today.

Mixed Views of Civil War's Legacy

	Mar 30- Apr 3
<i>Do you think Civil War is...</i>	%
Still relevant to American politics and political life	56
Important historically, but has little relevance today	39
Don't know.)	<u>5</u>
	100
<i>Is it appropriate for public officials today to praise Confederate leaders?</i>	
Appropriate	36
Inappropriate	46
Don't know	<u>15</u>
	100
<i>Your reaction when you see the Confederate flag displayed?</i>	
Positive reaction	9
Negative reaction	30
Neither	58
Don't know	<u>2</u>
	100
<i>Your impression of the main cause of the Civil War?</i>	
Mainly about states' rights	48
Mainly about slavery	38
Both equally (Vol.)	9
Neither/Don't know	<u>6</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 30-Apr. 3, 2011.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

More than half of Americans (56%) say the Civil War is still relevant, according to the latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 30-April 3 among 1,507 adults. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) say the Civil War is important historically but has little current relevance.

In a nation that has long endured deep racial divisions, the history of that era still elicits some strong reactions. Nearly half of the public (46%) says it is inappropriate for today's public officials to praise the leaders of the Confederate states during the war; 36% say such statements are appropriate.

Nonetheless, a majority (58%) say they have no particular reaction to the Confederate flag, the symbol of the South. Among those who have a reaction to the flag, more than three times as many say they have a negative reaction as a positive reaction (30% to 9%).

There is no consensus among the public about the primary cause of the Civil War, but more (48%) say that the war was mainly about states' rights than say it was mainly about slavery (38%). Another 9% volunteer that it was about both equally.

Young people are more likely than older Americans to say that the war's main cause was states' rights -- 60% of those younger than age 30 express this view, the highest percentage of any age group. Those ages 65 and older are the only age group in which more say that slavery,

rather than states' rights, was the main cause of the Civil War (by 50% to 34%). While 48% of whites view states' rights was the war's main cause, so too do 39% of African Americans.

Sense of Southern Identity

Consider Yourself a Southerner?

	Yes	No	DK
	%	%	%
Total	25	73	2=100
White	24	75	1=100
Black	43	54	2=100
<i>Among whites:</i>			
Living in confederate states	64	35	1=100
Living in non-confederate	9	90	1=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 30-Apr. 3, 2011. Q73.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

On some, but not all, issues relating to the Civil War, the views of whites who identify as Southerners differ significantly from those who do not.

About a quarter of all whites (24%) consider themselves Southerners; 75% do not.

Nearly half of self-described Southern whites (49%) see states' rights as the war's main cause; among whites who do not consider themselves Southerners, a comparable percentage (48%) also says states' rights was the war's main cause. However, self-described Southern whites are more likely than other whites to view praise by politicians for Confederate leaders as appropriate and to have a positive reaction to displays of the Confederate flag.

Less Positive View of Politicians Praising Confederates

Appropriate for Politicians Today to Praise Confederate Leaders?

	Yes	No	DK
	%	%	%
Total	36	49	15=100
White	36	49	14=100
Black	33	60	7=100
<i>Among whites:</i>			
See self as Southerner	52	32	16=100
Not a Southerner	32	55	14=100
<i>Among public:</i>			
College grad+	30	59	11=100
Some college	33	53	14=100
H.S. or less	42	41	17=100
Republican	41	42	17=100
Democrat	30	61	9=100
Independent	41	47	13=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 30-Apr. 3, 2011. Q68.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites
 and blacks include only non-Hispanics.

The public expresses a less positive view of politicians praising Confederate leaders than it did a decade ago. In a January 2001 Gallup survey, 50% said they thought it was appropriate for public officials to praise the leaders of the Confederate states in the Civil War; 40% said such praise was inappropriate.

In the new survey, more think that politicians' statements praising Confederate leaders are inappropriate rather than appropriate (by 49% to 36%).

Whites who consider themselves Southerners are the only group in which substantially more view public officials' praise for Confederate leaders as appropriate rather than inappropriate (52% to 32%). A plurality of all whites (49%) -- and a clear majority of African Americans (60%) -- say it is inappropriate for public officials to praise Confederate leaders.

About six-in-ten (59%) among those with at least a college degree also say praising leaders of the former Confederate states is inappropriate, while 30% say they do not have a problem with that. Those with a high school diploma or less are divided (42% appropriate, 41% inappropriate).

Racial Differences in Reactions to Confederate Flag

Reactions to The Confederate Flag

<i>Reaction when you see the Confederate flag displayed?</i>	Posi- tive %	Nega- tive %	Nei- ther %	DK %
Total	9	30	58	2=100
White	8	29	61	2=100
Black	10	41	45	3=100
<i>Among whites:</i>				
See self as Southerner	22	13	64	1=100
Not a Southerner	4	35	59	2=100
<i>Among public:</i>				
College grad+	5	46	47	2=100
Some college	5	33	61	1=100
H.S. or less	14	18	65	3=100
Republican	15	21	62	2=100
Democrat	7	44	46	3=100
Independent	8	27	63	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 31-Apr. 3, 2011. Q72.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics.

Only a small number of Americans say they display the Confederate flag, but that symbol of the Southern cause elicits more negative reactions from some groups -- especially African Americans, Democrats and the highly educated. Nevertheless, most Americans say they do not react positively or negatively when they see the Confederate flag.

Fewer than one-in-ten (8%) say they display the Confederate flag in places such as their home or office, on their car or on their clothing; 91% say they do not. The number that displays the Confederate flag is just a small fraction of the 75% who say they display the American flag in their homes or offices, on their cars or their clothing.

Far more African Americans than whites have a negative reaction to the Confederate flag (41% to 29%). Still, about as many blacks have no reaction (45%) as a negative reaction to the Confederate flag. Among whites, 61% have no reaction.

Whites who consider themselves Southerners have a more positive reaction to the Confederate flag than do other whites: 22% say they react positively when they see the Confederate flag displayed, compared with 8% of all whites and just 4% of whites who do not consider themselves Southerners.

Nearly half of those with at least a college degree (46%) say they have a negative reaction to the display of the Confederate flag, compared with a third (33%) of those with some college experience and just 18% of those with a high school diploma or less.

There also are partisan differences in reactions to the flag: about twice as many Democrats (44%) as Republicans (21%) react negatively to displays of the Confederate flag. And Republicans are more likely than Democrats to have a positive reaction to the flag (15% vs. 7%).

Source:<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1958/civil-war-still-relevant-and-divisive-praise-confederate-leaders-flag>

167-27. Democrats, Republicans Differ Widely on Taxing the Rich

Majority of Americans agree that wealth in the U.S. should be more evenly distributed
April 14, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- President Obama's call Wednesday for higher taxes on the wealthiest Americans highlights a partisan and class gulf in Americans' views on taxing the rich. Substantial majorities of Democrats and of those with low incomes endorse the idea of redistributing wealth by heavy taxes on the rich. Two-thirds or more of Republicans and of those with higher incomes disagree.

People feel differently about how far a government should go. Here is a phrase which some people believe in and some don't. Do you think our government should or should not redistribute wealth by heavy taxes on the rich?

	% Yes, should	% No, should not	% No opinion
National adults	47	49	4
Republicans	28	69	3
Independents	43	53	4
Democrats	71	26	3
Less than \$30,000 per year	63	32	5
\$30,000-<\$75,000 per year	51	47	2
\$75,000+ per year	31	67	2

April 7-11, 2011

GALLUP'

In his major budget address Wednesday at George Washington University, Obama repeatedly called for higher taxes on the richest Americans:

In December, I agreed to extend the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans because it was the only way I could prevent a tax hike on middle-class Americans. But we cannot afford \$1 trillion worth of tax cuts for every millionaire and billionaire in our society. And I refuse to renew them again. ... My budget calls for limiting itemized deductions for the wealthiest 2% of Americans.

Republican leaders immediately criticized this theme. Speaker of the House John Boehner, for example, said, "Any plan that starts with job-destroying tax hikes is a nonstarter."

This political wrangling between Obama and Republican leaders about taxes on the rich reflects the division in sentiment between rank-and-file Democrats and Republicans nationwide. More than 7 in 10 Democrats agree that the government should "redistribute wealth by heavy taxes on the rich." Fewer than 3 in 10 Republicans (28%) -- and 43% of independents -- agree.

Americans' views also differ substantially, depending on their personal income bracket. More than 6 in 10 Americans making under \$30,000 a year say wealth should be redistributed through heavy taxes on the rich. Thirty-one percent of those making \$75,000 a year and more agree -- even though many in this broad group would not be affected by the new taxes proposed by the president, most of which are targeted at those making \$250,000 a year and more.

This question on redistributing wealth was first asked in a 1939 poll commissioned by *Fortune Magazine*, at the tail end of the Depression. At that time, 35% of Americans agreed with the redistributionist alternative. Gallup has asked the question six times since then, including five times between 2007 and the current April 7-11 survey. Responses have varied, but the general pattern has consistently shown a split in responses. Most recently, among all Americans, 47% agree that the government should redistribute wealth by heavy taxes, while 49% disagree.

People feel differently about how far a government should go. Here is a phrase which some people believe in and some don't. Do you think our government should or should not redistribute wealth by heavy taxes on the rich?

	% Yes, should	% No, should not	% No opinion
2011 Apr 7-11	47	49	4
2009 Mar 27-29	50	46	4
2008 Oct 23-26	46	50	4
2008 Apr 6-9	51	43	5
2007 Apr 2-5	49	47	4
1998 Apr 23-May 31	45	51	4
1939 Mar ^	35	54	11

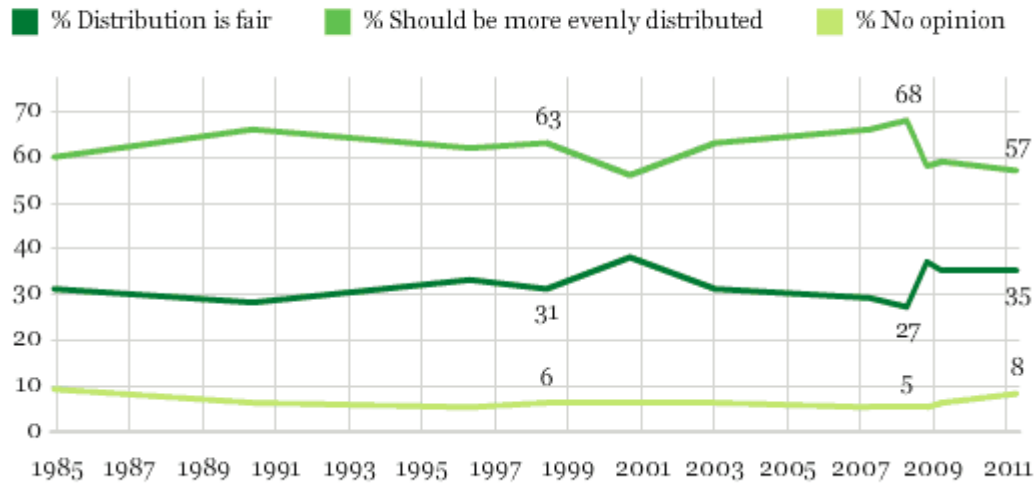
^ Roper for Fortune Magazine

GALLUP

Majority Say Money and Wealth Should Be More Evenly Distributed

A majority of Americans, in response to a separate Gallup question, continue to reject the idea that the distribution of money and wealth in the U.S. is fair. They instead agree with the broad sentiment that "money and wealth in this country should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people."

Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in this country today is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in this country should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people?



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The trend on this question stretches back to 1984. A majority of Americans have always agreed with the "more evenly distributed" alternative, although the percentage is down slightly in recent years. The recession appears to have affected responses to the question. Sixty-eight percent of Americans agreed that money and wealth should be more evenly distributed in April 2008, the highest across the 11 times this question has been asked. By October 2008, however, in the midst of the financial meltdown and escalating recession, agreement dropped to 58%, similar to where it is today.

Republicans are least likely to say money and wealth should be more evenly distributed, while Democrats are most likely. Republicans are not monolithic in their views, however, with more than a third agreeing with the redistributionist alternative; almost 8 in 10 Democrats say the same.

Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in this country today is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in this country should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people?

	% Distribution is fair	% Should be more evenly distributed	% No opinion
National adults	35	57	8
Republicans	56	36	8
Independents	36	55	9
Democrats	16	78	9

April 7-11, 2011

GALLUP®

Implications

President Obama clearly was preaching to his political base Wednesday. Democrats widely agree with his call for higher taxes on the rich, and also are highly likely to say more generally that wealth in this country should be spread out across a larger percentage of the people. Republicans nationwide disagree with these types of proposals.

Not surprisingly, this issue also divides the country based on income. The large group of Americans who make \$75,000 and more oppose the concept of heavy taxes on the rich, while those making under \$30,000 widely agree.

The "tax the rich" question trended back to 1939 is strongly worded, asking about "heavy" taxes on the rich -- and almost half of the American public still agrees with it. Gallup recently asked a separate question about including "higher taxes for families with household incomes of \$250,000 and above" in next year's budget, and found 59% agreement. Again, Democrats were most likely, and Republicans least likely, to agree with this proposal.

All in all, Americans tend to agree with the broad principle that money and wealth should be distributed more equally in American society today. A majority agrees with the idea of higher taxes on those making \$250,000 a year or more, and about half go along with the idea of "heavy taxes" on the rich in order to redistribute wealth. In this sense, President Obama's proposals tend to be in line with the views of many Americans. The fact that Republicans are so likely to disagree, however, shows that a congressional battle over the president's proposals is highly likely. Additionally, this issue most likely reflects a major theme that will echo through next year's presidential campaign.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 7-11, 2011, with a random sample of 1,077 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell phones numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both, cell phone mostly, and having an unlisted landline number). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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

Source:[http://www.gallup.com/poll/147104/Democrats-Republicans-Differ-Widely-Taxing-Rich.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas - Northern America - Politics - USA](http://www.gallup.com/poll/147104/Democrats-Republicans-Differ-Widely-Taxing-Rich.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA)

167-28. American Public Sees Democratization of Middle East as Positive for US

April 11, 2011

Favors Democratization Even if Countries Become Less Friendly to US

An overwhelming majority of Americans think that it would be positive for the United States if the Middle East were to become more democratic and a solid majority would favor this happening even if this resulted in the country being more likely to oppose US policies.

These are some of the findings of a new poll conducted by the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development and the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland and directed by Shibley Telhami and Steven Kull. The poll of 802 Americans was fielded April 1-5 by Knowledge Networks.

The poll is being released in conjunction with the opening of the seventh Forum on US-Islamic World Relations being held in Washington DC April 12-14. The Forum is a joint program of the Saban Center of the Brookings Institution and the Foreign Ministry of Qatar.

Asked, "if the countries of the Middle East become more democratic," how this would be for United States "over the next few years," 65% say it would be mostly positive, while 31% say it would be mostly negative. Asked about "the long run," an even larger number--76%--say democratization would be mostly positive for the US.

A majority of 57% say that they "would want to see a country become more democratic even if this resulted in the country being more likely to oppose US policies." This number is up from 48% when PIPA asked this question in 2005.

"While some observers are worried about the potential effects of greater democratization for US interests in the Middle East, most Americans are cheering the move toward more democracy, even if this might pose some challenges for the US," comments Steven Kull, director of PIPA.

Americans are not entirely confident, though, that the changes occurring in the Arab world will lead to more democracy. Fifty-one percent say that they think it is likely, but 47% are more doubtful. This divides sharply along partisan lines with two out of three Republicans pessimistic, two out of three Democrats optimistic, and independents leaning to the optimistic side.

More see the popular uprisings as mostly "about ordinary people seeking freedom and democracy" (45%) than "about Islamist groups seeking political power"(15%). Another 37% see these forces as being equally influential.

A clear majority, though, believes that "It is possible for Islamic countries to be democratic" (56%), while 41% say that "democracy and Islam are incompatible." While a large majority of Democrats hold this position (69%) as well as a slight majority of independents (52%), while among Republicans 51% say that democracy and Islam are incompatible.

Similarly, 59% overall, and 68% of Democrats and 59% of independents, think that it is possible for Muslim and Western cultures to find common ground, while 52% of Republicans say that violent conflict is inevitable.

Trend line questions show signs of modest improvement in American attitudes toward Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria. Majorities express favorable views of the Arab people in general (56%) the Saudi people (57%) and especially the Egyptian people (70%)--putting the Egyptian people nearly on a par with the Israeli people (73% favorable).

Significant minorities said that the Arab uprisings increased their sympathy for the Arab people (39%), and their sense of how similar the aspirations of the Arab world are to theirs (33%). Only very small minorities said that it decreased these feelings and perceptions.

"There is evidence that the Arab uprisings have contributed to improving views of Arab countries and quite positive views of the Arab people, especially Egyptians," comments Shibley Telhami of the Anwar Sadat Chair and the Saban Center of the Brookings Institution.

Nonetheless, when asked how the United States should position itself relative to the demonstrators and the governments, two thirds say that it should not take a position in Syria, Bahrain, Yemen, Saudi Arabia or Jordan. Among those who favor the US taking a position, though, they overwhelmingly favor the US supporting the demonstrators.

Now that the US has participated in air strikes in Libya, a majority is supportive, with 54% approving. However, this is down from 68% who approved when CBS News asked this same question in March just as the action was getting started. Views vary by party affiliation with Democrats approving by 63%, Republicans by 55% and independents being divided.

If "the air campaign does not succeed in protecting civilians from attacks by Qaddafi's forces," a majority of 59% say they would oppose "providing arms to the Libyan rebels."

The uprisings in the Arab world have had little effect on American views of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. Two thirds continue to have a favorable view of Israel. But the same number also continue to favor the US not taking sides in the conflict--unchanged from a Sadat Chair poll conducted last November.

The dominant view continues to be that the Obama administration's efforts to resolve the conflict are at about the right level, with four in ten taking this position--unchanged from November. Among the rest, while in November more said that the Administration was not trying hard enough (30% not hard enough, 21% too hard), now views are evenly divided.

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

Source:<http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brunitedstatescanadara/685.php?nid=&id=&pnt=685&lb=>

167-29. U.S. Consumers Less Likely To Consider Purchasing Japanese Or Korean Autos

April 14th, 2011

Part Availability and Pricing as a Result of Japan Catastrophe, Among Key Influencers

New York, NY - April 14, 2011 - Over twenty-five percent of U.S. consumers surveyed, report being less likely to purchase automotive brands from Japan or Korea, a strong opinion that is gaining traction since the earthquake and tsunami catastrophe that struck the Japan region in March.

The survey, conducted earlier this month by TNS, a global leader in market information, asked respondents to identify which brands they felt would be the most impacted by the natural catastrophe. Toyota ranked the highest among Japanese brands with 63% feeling it would be the most impacted. Honda (47%), Mitsubishi (43%), Nissan (43%) and Mazda (30%) comprised the top five. Subaru received the least mentions of being impacted (26%). Surprisingly, Hyundai/Kia, a Korean manufacturer, was mentioned by 21% of the respondents as being impacted. "There may be some confusion on the part of the average U.S. consumer that these brands are Japanese instead of Korean, or have manufacturing locations in the region impacted by the disaster" says William Bruno, Vice President for TNS. "Subaru, on the other hand, may be more strongly perceived as having domestic manufacturing locations".

The concerns of the U.S. consumer, highlighted by this study, are translating into reduced purchase consideration of impacted brands; twenty-seven percent of consumers surveyed said

they are less likely to consider purchasing these brands. The major concerns lies in the perceived notion of limited availability of parts (46%), as well as an overall increase in price of the car (37%) and the idea that with the shortage, the price of parts will also increase (36%). “As impacted manufacturers work through solutions to the manufacturing and supply chains issues caused by the disaster, it will be important to clearly communicate these to consumers in the U.S. market.” says Bruno. “Those brands that have not been impacted by the disaster should be sure to reaffirm this with their target customers through advertising and dealer communications programs.”

About TNS

TNS is the global leader in custom market research delivering actionable insights and research-based business advice to clients around the globe so they can make more effective business decisions. TNS offers comprehensive industry knowledge within the Consumer, Technology, Finance, Automotive and Political & Social sectors, supported by a unique product offering that stretches across the entire range of marketing and business issues, specializing in product development & innovation, brand & communication, stakeholder management, retail & shopper, and qualitative research. Delivering best-in-class service across more than 80 countries, TNS is dedicated to discovering growth opportunities for its clients in an ever-changing world. Through its pioneering and innovative culture, TNS understands the latest marketing challenges and research techniques, being the first to discover and solve new marketing issues for clients.

Source: http://www.tns-us.com/news/tns_survey_shows_us_consumers.php

167-30. Coalition government acceptable to most Canadians: Survey

15.04.2011

This scenario is considered ‘completely’ or ‘somewhat’ acceptable by 72% of Canadians.

Acceptance of Coalition Scenarios

OTTAWA, April 12, 2011 – A new survey conducted by global marketing and public opinion research firm TNS Canada shows that despite all the talk about coalitions, they aren’t as daunting a prospect to Canadians as they have been made out to be. The survey asked Canadians about a number of plausible scenarios in the event that no party wins a majority of seats in the upcoming Federal election. The most ‘acceptable’ scenario would be a similar situation to how government has worked for the last several years, i.e. the party with the most seats forms a government and seeks support on a case-by-case basis. This scenario is considered ‘completely’ or ‘somewhat’ acceptable by 72% of Canadians. However, when asked about the possibility of parties forming a coalition, a majority of Canadians (57%) would find it completely or somewhat acceptable if the party with the most seats forms a coalition government with another party. In addition, even in the absence of perfect knowledge of parliamentary tradition, 1 in 2 Canadians (49%) would find it acceptable if two or more parties, none of which obtained the most seats individually, would form a coalition in order to form a majority government. This is compared to only one in three (33%) would find this scenario completely or somewhat unacceptable.

“Clearly, while Canadians’ preference is for the party with the most seats to govern with the cooperation of the others, these results show that most Canadians aren’t that apprehensive about a coalition scenario”, indicated Norman Baillie-David, Vice President of TNS and Director of Public Opinion Research. “These results also show that Canadians want the parties to work together in the event that no one party wins a majority, and that most would accept a coalition if that’s what it takes to achieve that.”

In terms of which parties Canadians would prefer to see form a coalition, a prospective Liberal – NDP coalition garnered the highest preference, at 28%, followed by a prospective

Conservative – NDP coalition (24%). Preference drops dramatically for any prospective coalition which includes the Bloc Québécois:

- Liberal-NDP-Bloc : 8%
- Liberal-Bloc – 5%
- Conservative – Bloc – 3%
- Conservative – NDP- Bloc – 3%

One-in-five (20%) of Canadians indicated that they wouldn't prefer any of these coalition scenarios.

Acceptance of Coalitions Differs along Party and Regional Lines

As might be expected, the level of acceptance for different coalition scenarios differs along both party and regional lines. Interestingly, a majority of Conservative supporters feel a coalition formed by the party which wins the most seats is acceptable (51%). However, Conservative supporters are also the ones most strongly opposed to a scenario in which parties which did not obtain the most seats form a coalition, with 55% finding this scenario unacceptable.

In terms of regional views, acceptance of two parties not having the most seats forming a coalition government hovers around the 50% mark in all regions except the Prairies¹, where only 39% would see this scenario as acceptable, compared to 44% who would view it as unacceptable.

¹Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

Overall Voting Intention

In terms of voting intention, the Conservatives lead at 36% of decided voters, compared to 25% for the Liberals, 18% for the NDP, 9% for the Green Party, and 9% (nationally) for the Bloc Québécois. In Quebec, the Bloc Québécois leads at 35%, followed by the NDP at 22%, the Liberals and Conservatives in a dead heat at 18% and 17% respectively, and the Green Party at 6%. While it appears that the NDP may be strong in Quebec, we caution that the results are subject to a wide margin of error (+/- 7.2%) due to the Quebec sample size of 183.

About the Survey

A telephone survey of 1,015 Canadians was conducted between April 4 and April 8, 2011. The margin of error on national results is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. Margins of error on regional results are significantly higher, ranging from +/- 5.4% (Ontario) to +/- 9.6% (Atlantic). The full report can be viewed at www.tns-cf.com.

Source: <http://www.tnsglobal.com/news/news-178B1FB6E9CA45F58705DC97A5A43C04.aspx>

LATIN AMERICA

167-31. Cubans Aspiring for Democracy and Market Economy

Over the course of its public opinion survey work in Cuba dating back to 2007, the International Republican Institute (IRI) has followed a number of indicators that track changes in the mood and opinions of the Cuban people. The latest survey was conducted January 28 - February 10, 2011. Among the trends that the data points to:

Cubans still overwhelmingly desire democracy and freedom in their country, including multiparty elections and freedom of expression. The response rate signifying this desire is higher than at any time since Raul Castro assumed the presidency of Cuba in 2008.

Due to restrictions on access, only one out of 20 adults in Cuba report ever going online.

More than 90 percent of Cubans want a market economy system, with economic freedoms, opportunities to own property, and the right to own businesses.

Citizens remain very concerned with their economic future and more than three of four Cuban citizens (77 percent) do not have confidence that their government will succeed in solving this challenge.

Contrary to Cuban government reports that seven million citizens participated in town hall style meetings leading up to the April 16 Communist Party Congress, nearly 78 percent of survey respondents report they did not.

Findings:

Desire for Fundamental Change

More than three-in-four Cuban adults would vote for fundamental political change (78 percent) if given the opportunity, and nine-in-ten citizens (91 percent) would support economic change. While a vast majority of Cuban citizens across the board support change, there is a clear correlation between age, education, and support for change. However a majority of every demographic group, including a majority of citizens born before 1959 – the cohort generally described as most loyal to the regime – indicate they favor both political and economic change.

As the Cuban government approaches their Communist Party Congress on April 16, only 19 percent of citizens say that had even minimal levels of involvement in community and/or local discussions regarding local needs or desired reforms. This figure is at odds with Cuban government claims that more than seven million citizens were involved in local forums.

Economic Concerns

Economic concerns remain predominant in Cubans' lives with well over three-quarters of Cuban citizens (85 percent) citing low salaries and the high cost of living (61 percent), food scarcity (13 percent) or challenges with the island's double-currency system (12 percent) as their biggest concern. In general, older respondents are more concerned with issues such as food scarcity while younger respondents and those with a higher level of education focus their immediate concerns on low salaries and the high cost of living.

Notably the problem of food scarcity (13 percent) remains the second most commonly cited problem, despite Raul Castro's launch of limited agricultural reforms beginning in 2008.

Recent cuts in subsidies of basic foodstuffs and the move to eliminate the ration card further highlight the struggles that Cubans will continue to face with regard to access to food.

Increased Pessimism

Cuban citizens are losing confidence in their government's ability to address problems and needs. While in 2008, 27 percent of Cubans felt that the government *could* solve Cuba's biggest problem, now only 14 percent believe that to be true. Overall, more than three-in-four Cuban citizens (77 percent) do *not* have confidence that their government will succeed in solving their problems.

Forty-four percent of interviewees stated that their economic situation was worse now than two years ago, in the aftermath of two major hurricanes.

Cubans' Lack of Access to Information Technology

Cuban access to information technology is limited in both breadth and medium, with the state controlling the right to own and use telecommunication services. Less than five percent of Cubans have access to the Internet, while only 23 percent of Cubans have any access to an email account. It is important to note that these numbers indicate individuals who have some level of access at work or elsewhere, since home internet connections remain unavailable to Cuban citizens.

Of the small percentage that have any form of access, three-fourths (75 percent) have access of weekly or less, and less than one-third reported daily access (24 percent). This data reflects

why Cuba is considered one of the most closed societies in the world when it comes to information and technology access.

Despite growth in the number of cellular users since the government allowed citizens to purchase cell phones in 2008, only 25 percent of Cubans report having *access to use* a cell phone. (The phrasing of IRI's question yields a higher number than the actual cellular penetration rate of about 10 percent, as individual cellphones are typically shared among family and friends. The proportional change in IRI's access rate since its previous poll in late 2009 mirrors industry data on the increase in mobile subscribers).

Cuba still lags far behind other countries in Latin America with the lowest mobile phone penetration – significantly below the second lowest, Haiti at 35 percent, and well below the regional average of 90 percent.

Source:<http://www.iri.org/news-events-press-center/news/iri-releases-survey-cuban-public-opinion>

AUSTRALASIA

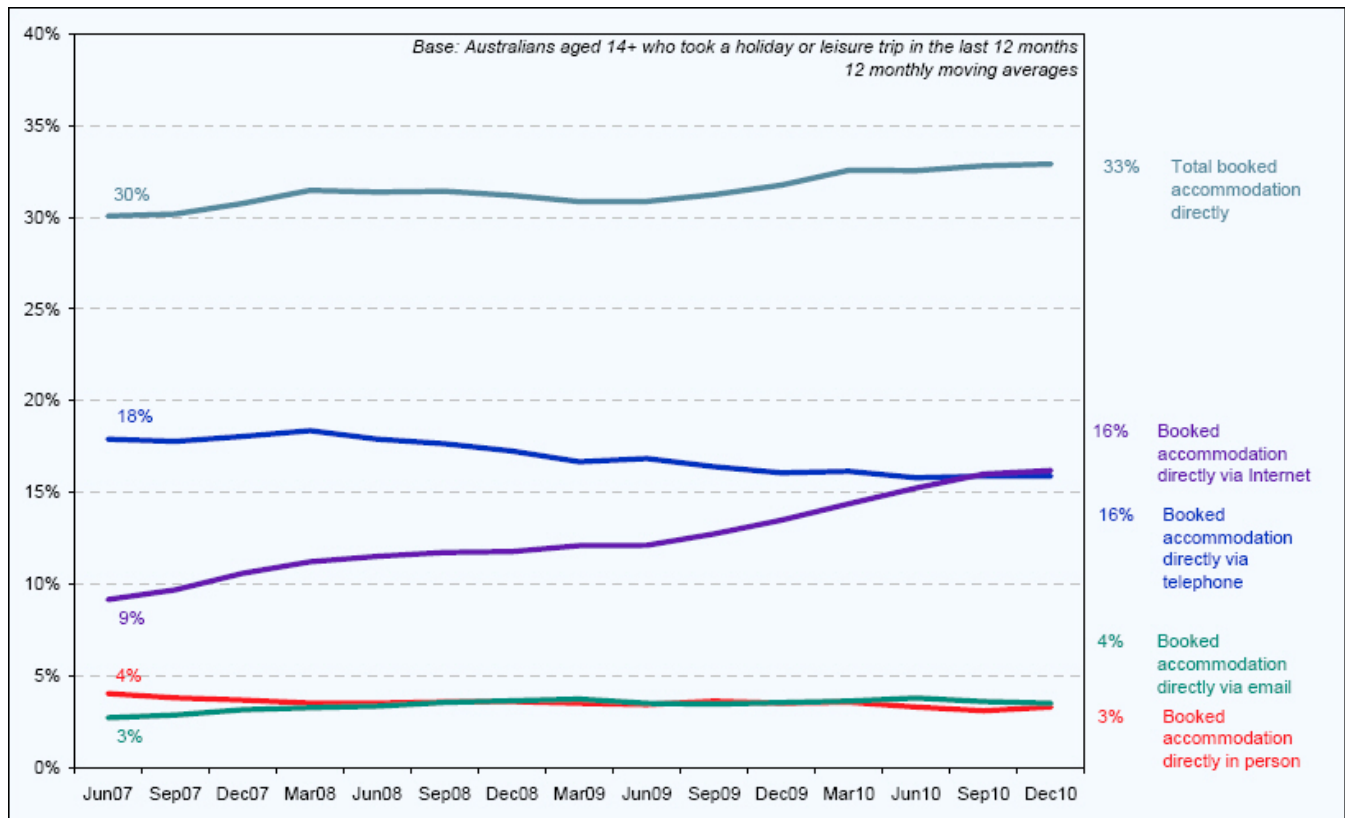
167-32. Increasing use of Internet to book accommodation directly now ahead of telephone

Article No. 1323 - Source: Roy Morgan Single Source, July 2006 – December 2010, 12 monthly moving average, sample size n=14,079.: April 11, 2011

When booking accommodation directly, the Internet has overtaken the telephone as the method of choice for Australian holiday/leisure travellers 14+.

Australian travellers are becoming more empowered when it comes to booking their holidays or leisure trips, with the incidence of those booking their accommodation directly growing slowly but steadily, sitting at 33% for the twelve months to December 2010. The expansion of online services has seen the proportion of those booking accommodation directly using the Internet increase from 9% in the twelve months to June 2007 to 16% in the twelve months to December 2010 — just equalling the telephone which at 16% is continuing to decline in usage.

Booking method used to book accommodation on last holiday/leisure trip



Source: Roy Morgan Single Source, July 2006 — December 2010, 12 monthly moving average, sample size n=14,079 *Respondents are able to choose multiple responses.

Jane Ianniello, Roy Morgan Research International Director of Tourism, Travel & Leisure, says:

“An increasing percentage of Australians are using the Internet on a regular basis and it is now the preferred method for researching and booking a holiday. Using the internet to directly book accommodation avoids the cost of a telephone call and it also allows the consumer to search for discount room rates and special deals.”

To find out more about Roy Morgan **Travel Agent Brand Health and Holiday Booking Trends Report** please [click here](#) to view the details of this report. The report examines how travel agents are performing relative to their competitors. It also shows how the internet has changed the way Australians are booking their holiday and leisure travel. This report is available as a whole or in sections.

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

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate					
	<u>40%-</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>or</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>or</u>	<u>5%</u>
<u>60%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>or</u>	<u>90%</u>	<u>or</u>	<u>95%</u>	

10,000	±1.0	±0.9	±0.6	±0.4
15,000	±0.8	±0.7	±0.5	±0.4
20,000	±0.7	±0.6	±0.4	±0.3
25,000	±0.6	±0.5	±0.4	±0.3

Source: <http://www.roymorgan.com/news/press-releases/2011/1323/>

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

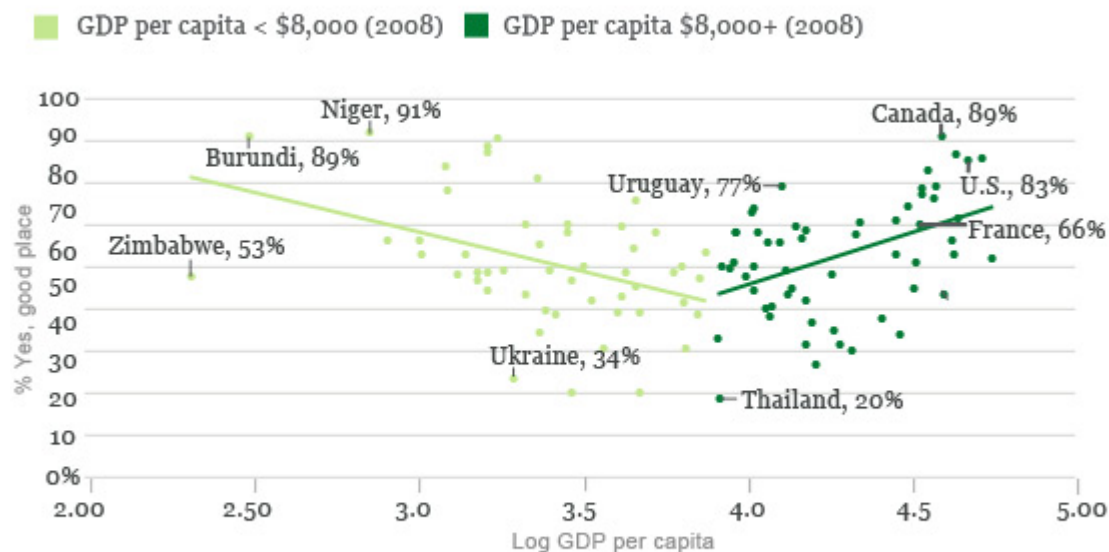
167-33. Globally, Minority Acceptance Falls, Then Rises, With GDP

Countries in the "turnaround" range may be particularly prone to instability

April 14, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The rising income inequality that often accompanies rapid economic growth can often mean certain minority groups are disproportionately likely to be excluded from new economic opportunities. Gallup data indicate that among the world's poorer countries, residents are less likely to see their communities as good places for racial and ethnic minorities as GDP increases. Among countries with average annual incomes above \$8,000, however, higher GDP levels are linked to more widespread perceptions of minority acceptance.

Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for racial and ethnic minorities?



All surveys conducted January-December 2009

GALLUP

Residents of Canada (89%) and the U.S. (83%) are among the most likely in the world to say their communities are good places for racial and ethnic minorities, as are residents of Niger (91%) and Burundi (89%). The former two countries are among the richest in the world, while the latter two are among the poorest. Among countries in the middle of the GDP spectrum, however, the proportion rarely rises above 70%.

These findings are based on Gallup surveys in 109 countries in 2009. The U-shaped pattern is reminiscent of an economic theory known as the Kuznets curve, which argues that income inequality tends to increase in the early stages of a country's economic development until average income reaches a certain level, after which it tends to decline.

Economists offer various theories on why inequality may start to decrease when a country's economy rises above a certain GDP level. One of the most common ideas is that at some point in

a country's economic growth, pressure builds to implement institutional reforms that allow more people to participate in the growth process; for example, by establishing secure property rights or basic education for all citizens. Inclusiveness becomes greater as these institutions develop, leading to stronger growth.

This idea implies that countries where rapid growth is occurring and GDP levels are in the "turnaround" range may be prone to instability if they are not taking steps to provide all residents with economic opportunities.

Gallup's data suggest a parallel effect may apply to perceived opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities. As noted, the turnaround range in the previous graph is about \$8,000 in GDP per capita, or about 3.9 in log GDP per capita. (This article uses GDP figures from 2008 to avoid having to account for the effects of the global recession.) Countries in the \$6,000 to \$10,000 range with average annual growth of at least 4% from 1999 to 2008 are listed in the graph below.

Countries With Strong Growth and GDP per Capita in the "Turnaround" Range

	GDP per capita, 2008	Average growth, 1999-2008	% "good place for minorities," 2009[^]
Bosnia and Herzegovina	\$6,800	5.8%	55%
Albania	\$6,900	6.3%	46%
Ukraine	\$7,500	6.2%	34%
Thailand	\$8,300	4.7%	20%
Dominican Republic	\$8,200	5.5%	55%
Peru	\$8,700	5.1%	55%

[^]All surveys conducted January-December 2009

GALLUP

In two of the countries on this list -- Ukraine and Thailand -- respondents were particularly unlikely to say their communities were good places for racial and ethnic minorities. Each country has struggled with prolonged political and social instability in recent years. Though they were not asked about racial and ethnic minorities in 2009 (and so are not included in this analysis), Egypt and Tunisia also fell into this GDP range in 2008, and both averaged about 5% growth between 1999 and 2008, suggesting perceptions of inclusiveness were particularly relevant in those countries prior to their revolutions.

Implications

Social inclusiveness is likely to be increasingly important as all countries come to rely more heavily on the productivity and innovation of their "human capital" for long-term economic development. Countries that are in the early stages of growth -- whether from natural resources, infrastructure development, or other means -- should recognize that maintaining that growth over the long term is likely to require harnessing the talents and energy of all social groups. As the reform movement sweeping the Arab world has demonstrated, if leaders are unable or unwilling to find ways to translate their growth into inclusive economic opportunities, they may risk having change forced on them from within.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face and telephone interviews conducted in 2009 with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, in each of 109 countries. All global regions are included in the analysis with the exception of one: in the Middle East and North Africa region

the "good place for minorities" question was not asked in 2009. For results based on the total sample in each country, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 1.7 percentage points to ± 5.7 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147092/Globally-Minority-Acceptance-Falls-Rises-GDP.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=USA

167-34. Popularly followed sports and sports events in the Middle East and North Africa

11 April 2011

YouGov Siraj/ SMG Insight interviewed respondents from 17 countries in the Middle East and North Africa including Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. Respondents were asked to choose their favourite sport to watch on TV, participate in personally and sporting events they followed on a regular basis.

The research reveals that the most popular sport followed on TV or in the media on a regular basis in the Middle East and North Africa is football, with 58% of respondents saying they regularly follow the sport. 17% said they regularly watched swimming while motorsports and martial arts/wrestling were cited by 15% of respondents each.

Respondents were also asked which sport, if any, they personally participated in on a regular basis. Football and swimming came out top with 27% and 10% respectively.

The FIFA Football World Cup was cited as the most popular football event/competition by just over half of respondents from the Middle East and North Africa (55%). Over a quarter of respondents chose a football league from their home country (27%). The Spanish La Liga (26%) and UEFA Champions League (25%) were also cited as regularly followed football competitions. Less popular were the English Premier League (16%), Arab Champions League (14%) and UEFA Europa League (13%).

Out of those respondents who regularly followed the English Premier League, the majority followed Manchester United (73%) followed closely by Arsenal (65%) and Chelsea (61%). Other English Premier League teams followed by Middle Eastern and North African respondents include Liverpool (39%) and Manchester City (26%). 18-24 year old respondents, however, favoured Arsenal over Manchester United with the majority (72%), supporting the London based team.

Frank Saez, Managing Director for SMG Insight commented on the results, "We expect Arsenal and Manchester City will quickly close in on Manchester United's position as „most followed team in the Middle East" in the coming years, the survey points to the younger generation who already demonstrate that the tide of team popularity is turning. Arsenal and Manchester City draw considerable investment from the Middle East and these investments are beginning to show the fruits of positive return".

Amongst popular ball sports events and competitions, 11% of Middle Eastern and North African respondents cited the Grand Slam Tennis tournaments as a sporting event they regularly watched. The NBA basketball championships (7%) and the FIBA World Championships (5%) followed. Out of those surveyed, respondents from Morocco favoured tennis the most with under a third (29%) following the Grand Slam tournaments and 16% following the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 on a regular basis.

The top three most followed non-ball sporting events for respondents in the Middle East and North Africa were the Summer Olympic Games (16%), IAAF World Championships (12%) and Formula One World Championships (11%). The Olympics were most favoured by respondents from Kuwait with a quarter (25%) regularly following the Summer Games and 15% the Winter Games. The Formula One World Championships were the most popular event in Lebanon (22%), United Arab Emirates (15%) and Syria (14%). Over a third of Moroccan respondents (34%) chose the IAAF World Championships, making the athletics event the most popular non-ball sporting event in Morocco.

Source: <http://www.yougov.co.uk/corporate/pdf/YG-press-PopularlySportsMENthAfrica.pdf>

167-35. Royal Wedding To Be Most Watched Event Of Decade

11.04.2011

7.7 million workers to take leave for wedding week

A massive 26.2 million people are set to watch next month's Royal Wedding on TV, making it the UK's most watched event of the last 10 years. Fifty-two per cent of the UK say they will tune in to watch Prince William and Catherine Middleton wed on TV, according to a survey by TNS Omnibus.

The viewing figure surpasses the record 21.3 million people who tuned in to BBC's *Only Fools and Horses* on 12 November 2001 – the most watched TV event of the last 10 years so far. It also beats the 17.7 million who tuned in to watch the 2010 *X Factor* final on ITV – the most watched TV show of 2010¹.

However, the Royal Wedding is predicted to fall short of the 28.4 million people who watched the marriage of William's parents, Prince Charles and Princess Diana, in 1981 (Broadcasters Audience Research Board 2010).

As the UK prepares to party in front of the television, £195 million will be spent on snacks and drinks to enjoy for the occasion, and 7.7 million workers across the UK are taking whole week off, the TNS Omnibus survey also reveals.

“Major Royal and sporting events, season finales and soap specials are the ones which consistently attract top viewing figures, but even by those standards this looks set to be very special. This figure shows what a momentous event this wedding will be for the UK – not to mention food and drink retailers, which will see an average spend of £30 on snacks and drinks for the show,” says TNS Omnibus's Sue Homeyard, who analysed the responses of over 6,600 people from six countries on their views on the Royal Wedding.

The survey found that Germany and the USA will also follow the event closely on TV, with respectively 44 and 42 per cent of these nations watching along at home. It seems that the widespread intention to watch the wedding may be linked to the positive opinions people have about Prince William.

“We also asked what kind of King they believe Prince William will be – and the majority of nations were positive,” says Ms Homeyard. “The UK believes he will be modern and caring, while Germany and the Netherlands believe he will have to live up to his mother's popular profile. A third of Americans believe he will be aware of global political issues.”

They may not share the national holiday, but Germans are especially enthralled by the British Royal couple, coming top of the survey as being the most interested in the wedding. Three-quarters of French and almost the same (73 per cent) proportion of Dutch appear somewhat unmoved by news of the wedding, saying they are just plain not interested.

Uniting the countries, however, is that the majority of people don't know if it is true love.

“Very few doubters came out and answered point blank that it is not true love, however many people said they just don’t know. Of course, being the ‘home’ of the Royal couple the UK did have the highest proportion of people to say it is ‘true love’ at 49%, even topping the traditional romantics – the French,” said Ms Homeyard.

THE WORLD’S WEDDING IN NUMBERS:

- 7.7 million people (15%) across the UK are taking 26th – 28th April as leave from work. 4.23 million will be taking a holiday in the UK and 1.37 million will take a holiday abroad during the week of the wedding.
- 49 per cent of the UK believe it is true love. 44 per cent say they ‘don’t know’.
- Forty-three per cent of the UK believe the Royal Family are good for British tourism, and 34 per cent believe they are good ambassadors for the country globally. Thirty-two per cent say they are a national asset.
- 50 per cent of the UK think Prince William will be a modern king and 43 per cent think he will be caring, but only 31 per cent view him as an excellent leader, and an even smaller 23 per cent think he will be inspirational.
- 40 per cent of Germans are ‘very/somewhat’ interested in the Royal Wedding, followed by 39 per cent of Britons and 37 per cent of Americans.
- Three-quarters of French (76%) are not interested in the Wedding, with the Dutch also aloof to the royal romance (73 per cent not interested).
- 35 per cent of people in Germany and the USA want a spectacular, traditional British Royal wedding, but 21 per cent of those in the UK would like a smaller affair, with costs kept to a minimum.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

‘The People’s Perspective Royal Wedding Poll’ was conducted by TNS Omnibus between 3rd – 24th March 2011. The survey was conducted online with a total of 6,625 adults from the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Netherlands and USA.

Source: <http://www.tnsglobal.com/news/news-5D5117CD88D54820BFFFA5B28A7EEF92.aspx>

CYBER WORLD

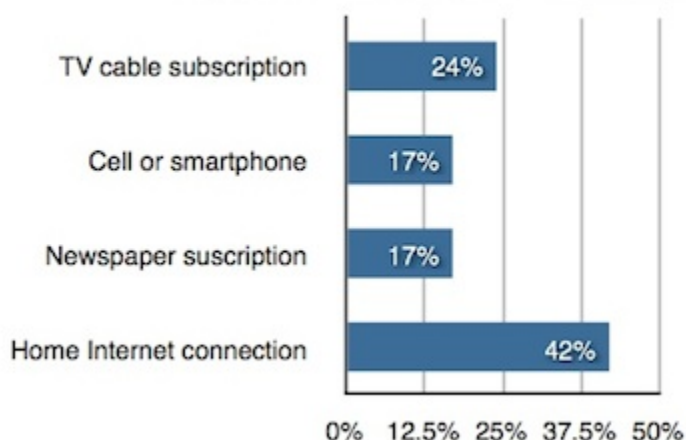
167-36. Canadians Value Home Internet Connection More Than Other Media Devices

Canadians value their home Internet connection more than any other medium and younger Canadians have already begun to access most of their information and entertainment programming online.

Of all the devices with which Canadians access news and information, two-in-five would be least willing to give up their home Internet subscription, a recent Canadian Media Research Consortium (CMRC) poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,682 Canadian adults conducted by Angus Reid Public Opinion, 42 per cent of respondents say they would be

Figure 1: Which would you be least willing to give up?



“least willing to give up” their home Internet connection, while 24 per cent claim they would be least willing to give up their television cable subscription; 17 per cent each say the same about their mobile phone or newspaper subscription.

Access to news and information is not the only reason why Canadians would least be willing to give up their home Internet subscription.

Other services such as e-mail, home banking, gaming, and home entertainment – including watching TV online – should also be considered when judging why Canadians value their home Internet above all other media devices.

Source: <http://mediaresearch.ca/en/projects/devices.htm>

167-37. Young Arabs More Connected in 2010

Cell phone access jumps in low- and middle-income countries

April 11, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Technology's pivotal role in the change that swept the Arab world in late 2010 and early 2011 underscores how quickly its young people are gaining access to information and communication technology. Gallup surveys conducted before the unrest show 87% of 15- to 29-year-olds across the Arab League say they have cellular phone access, up from 79% in 2009. Home and community Internet access are up, too, but not nearly as much.

Young Arabs' Access to Information and Communication Technology

Among young Arabs aged 15 to 29

	2009	2010	Difference (pct. pts.)
Cellular phone access at home	79%	87%	+8
Internet access in community	59%	62%	+3
Internet access at home	19%	22%	+3

Surveys conducted in 20 Arab League countries and Somaliland between February and December 2010.

The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs

GALLUP

These findings are based on the recently released fourth installment of Gallup's report, *The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs*, which charts Arab League members' progress from 2009 to 2010 toward creating a better climate for job creation and entrepreneurship. The Silatech Index is the product of a multiyear initiative, undertaken by Gallup in partnership with Silatech, that explores young people's opinions on entrepreneurship and employment challenges across 20 countries in the Arab League and the Somaliland region.

Young Arabs' reported cellular phone access increased more than any other indicator the Silatech Index tracks. This shift creates opportunities for mass communication with this key demographic as well as possible business opportunities. Most of the growth is taking place in middle- and low-income countries, where young Arabs' access to cell phones increased to 87% and 81%, respectively. At 98%, cellular phone access remains nearly universal in high-income countries.

Young Arabs' Cellular Phone Access

Among young Arabs aged 15 to 29, by income group

	Cellular phone access in 2009	Cellular phone access in 2010	Difference (pct. pts.)
High-income countries	99%	98%	-1
Middle-income countries	79%	87%	+8
Low-income countries	72%	81%	+9

Surveys conducted in 20 Arab League countries and Somaliland between February and December 2010.

The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs

GALLUP®

Although Internet access did not increase as much as cellular phone access, a majority of young Arabs (62%) say they have access to the Internet in their communities, which broadens their access to all sorts of information, be it political, economic, educational, social, or job-search related. Young Arabs are more likely to say they have community Internet access than home access (22%), highlighting the particularly important roles that Internet cafes, schools, and other community hot spots play.

Young people in middle-income Arab countries gained more access to the Internet at home and in their communities in 2010, although they are still not as connected as young Arabs in high-income countries. Community access to the Internet for those in middle-income countries increased from 63% to 69%, and home access increased from 18% to 22%.

Home Internet access increased as well in high- and low-income countries, but young Arabs in these countries reported somewhat lower community access in 2010. Access in low-income Arab countries significantly lags behind that in middle- and high-income countries, signaling that more investment in technology is needed to improve the flow of information in these countries.

Young Arabs' Internet Access

Among young Arabs, by income group

	Home Internet access in 2009	Home Internet access in 2010	Community Internet access in 2009	Community Internet access in 2010
High-income countries	69%	71%	93%	86%
Middle-income countries	18%	22%	63%	69%
Low-income countries	7%	9%	39%	33%

Surveys conducted in 20 Arab League countries and Somaliland between February and December 2010.

The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs

GALLUP®

Greater cellular phone and Internet access increases young Arabs' exposure not only to news from around the world, but also to job opportunities in their communities and around the region. Economists and industry leaders can capitalize on the growing connectivity and pursue new models to generate income and connect job seekers with employment. Some social enterprises in the region are already using 2G cellular phone technology to connect young people to job opportunities. Leaders should push for more innovations that remove obstacles for young Arabs.

In addition to examining overall trends in young Arabs' access to information and communication technology, the latest Silatech Index report includes detailed country-level findings from the Arab countries surveyed. The report also maps other challenges and strengths within the region and across countries, including sharp declines in satisfaction with affordable, available housing and growing optimism about local economic conditions.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with more than 16,000 country nationals, aged 15 to 29, conducted in two separate waves of data collection between February and December 2010 in 20 countries in the League of Arab States and the Somaliland region of Somalia. Similarly, Gallup conducted two waves of data collection in 2009. For results based on the total sample of national youth, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 3.3 percentage points to ± 6.9 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147035/Young-Arabs-Connected-2010.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Muslim%20World%20-%20Religion%20and%20Social%20Trends
