BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 171

Week: May 08-14, 2011

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M. Zubair

Introductory Note

This week report consists of 29 surveys. Four of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 25 are national surveys from various countries.

SUMMARY OF POLLS

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians Supportive of Cairo Reconciliatory Agreement

A recent survey of Palestinians shows that they are highly supportive of Cairo reconciliatory agreement. 69.9% oppose to varying degrees the launching of Al-Qassam rockets from Gaza into Israel. Over seven in ten believe that military escalation is in Israel's interest. (PCPO)

May 2011

WEST ASIA

Over Four in Ten Pakistanis Believe That the Influence of Religion in Pakistanis Society is on the Rise

The results of a recent Gallup Pakistan survey show that views about the influence of religion in Pakistani society are titled slightly in favor of the view that this influence is on the rise; 43% Pakistanis think the role of religion in our society is increasing while 35% feel it is decreasing and a significant 21% feel there has been no change. (Gallup Pakistan)

May 11, 2011

SOUTH ASIA

Civil Society comes of age.

A recent CVOTER survey tracked the sense of frustration in the public and the reaction to Hazare's campaign and its aftermath. An overwhelming majority of almost 90 per cent of the respondents agreed with the fact that though most people who joined the movement didn't quite know about the Lokpal Bill, wide-spread anger against politicians and bureaucrats amassing wealth through corrupt means led people to come out in huge numbers to support the cause. (CVoter)

April 2011

India Wants Younger Politicians

A CVOTER survey finds 60 per cent of the people polled saying that politicians above 80 should not stand for public office. (CVoter)

April 2011

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

People Happy With Their Choice Of Party In 2009 More Than Twice As Likely To Vote As Those No Longer Happy With Their 2009 Choice

A survey of 2 000 metro adults conducted mid-February showed that, amongst those happy with their choice of political party in 2009 and who would vote for the same party on 18

May, 89% claimed that they would vote. This drops to 43% amongst those no longer happy with their previous vote and who would change the party they vote for. (TNS South Africa)
May 10, 2011

EAST EUROPE

Chernobyl: A Quarter-Century Later

The level of anxiety of Russians about the power plants has sharply increased: today Russians think these facilities are the most threatening to ecology (59%, in previous years 29-39%). The importance of transportation and disposing of nuclear waste has considerably increased (from 29 to 40%). Russians also think the attention should be drawn to the deforestation (43%), followed by the problem of domestic waste which is seen as important again (from 27 to 38%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)
April 26, 2011

De-Stalinization: Pro Et Contra

The de-Stalinization course is supported by only 26% of Russians. Others think this program is nothing but verbiage and mythmaking. A quarter of Russians (24%) report their families suffered from Stalin`s repressions (27% five years ago). Ten percent of them know about the fate of the repressed relatives; other 14% know only about their prosecution. Almost half of respondents report there were no repressed persons in their families (46%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)
April 27, 2011

Will Expense Declaration Of State Officials Help Combating Corruption?

67% of respondents support the initiative of Vladimir Putin to oblige officials report revenues and expenditures. However, 42% are confident that this measure will not help combat corruption. (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)
April 26, 2011

WEST EUROPE

The Attitudes of Europeans Towards Tourism

Almost three-quarters (73%) of EU citizens said they had travelled, either for business or private purposes, at least once in 2010; 32% had made at least one holiday trip and at least one “short private” trip, 24% had made at least one holiday trip but no “short private” trips and 12% had made at least one “short private” trip but no holiday trips. Slightly less than 3 in 10 (29%) EU citizens had not travelled for leisure purposes in 2010. (Gallup Hungary)
May 13, 2011

Youth On The Move

Almost 8 in 10 (78%) of the young adults surveyed thought that vocational education and training was an attractive option for young people in their country; a figure similar to the one observed for the attractiveness of higher education (76%). (Gallup Hungary)
May 2011

NORTH AMERICA

Obama's Approval Bump Hasn't Transferred to 2012 Prospects

Given a choice between Barack Obama and an unnamed Republican, 43% of registered voters say they are more likely to vote for Obama and 40% are more likely to vote for the Republican. This is essentially unchanged from April and February, when voters' preferences were evenly split. (Gallup USA)
May 11, 2011

Americans More Positive on Afghanistan After Bin Laden Death

After the death of Osama bin Laden, a slim majority of Americans now say things are going well for the United States in Afghanistan, a four-percentage-point increase from late March. This marks the first time in nearly two years that the majority has held this view, and only the second time since Gallup began tracking these opinions on the war in 2006. (Gallup USA)

May 11, 2011

Approval of Congress, U.S. Satisfaction Rally on Bin Laden Death

Americans' approval of Congress increased to 24% after the death of Osama bin Laden, up from 17% in April, and the highest it has been since January 2010 by one percentage point. (Gallup USA)

May 12, 2011

U.S. Economic Confidence Spikes on Bin Laden Death

Gallup's Economic Confidence Index improved 10 percentage points in the week after Osama bin Laden's death, May 2-8. This surge in confidence brought the Index up to -25, the highest weekly confidence level since mid-February and just three points shy of what it was during the same week in 2010. The question is whether this sharp improvement is a temporary "halo effect" or a key turning point in consumer optimism. (Gallup USA)

May 10, 2011

Support for Third U.S. Party Dips, but Is Still Majority View

Fifty-two percent of Americans believe the Republican and Democratic parties do such a poor job of representing the people that a third party is needed. Forty percent believe they do an adequate job. The percentage calling for a third party is down from August, when it tied its high of 58%. (Gallup USA)

May 9, 2011

Romney's GOP Supporters Tilt Upscale; Palin's, Downscale

Republican college degree holders are more likely than those without a degree to support Mitt Romney for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012, 21% vs. 13%. Similarly, Romney's support climbs from 9% of Republicans earning less than $24,000 annually to 21% of those earning $90,000 or more. The reverse is true for Sarah Palin, who is favored by nearly twice as many Republicans without a college degree as those with one, 16% vs. 9%, and her support decreases by income from 22% among the lowest income group to 7% among the highest. (Gallup USA)

May 9, 2011

Cain Now Second to Christie As Top Choice Of GOP Primary Voters

Herman Cain trails only Chris Christie as the top choice among Republican primary voters in the race for the 2012 Presidential nomination. Mitt Romney ranks fourth, but voters see him as the most likely nominee by a wide margin over the rest of a 13-person field. (Zogby-Ibope)

May 10, 2011

Obama Approval Continues Rise to 48%; His Highest So Far This Year

President Barack Obama continues to see a rise in his job approval rating from likely voters after the successful mission that killed Osama bin Laden, as he hit the highest mark so far this year in an IBOPE Zogby interactive poll, 48%. (Harris Interactive)

May 09, 2011

Post Bin Laden Death, President Obama's Job Rating Rises 8 points

With the news that the most wanted man in America had been killed by Navy Seals, President Obama had one reason to breathe a sigh of relief last week. Now, he has another as Americans seemed to rally around not only him but also feel better about the state of the country. (Gallup USA)

May 9, 2011

Osama bin Laden's Death Dominates the News

The death of Osama bin Laden drove unprecedented amounts of coverage last week, making it the biggest story in a single week since the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism began tracking mainstream media coverage in January 2007.

May 10, 2011

Gingrich Begins With High Recognition, Low Positive Intensity

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, expected to announce his presidential candidacy on Wednesday, is well-known among Republicans, but has a below-average -- and declining -- Positive Intensity Score. Mike Huckabee receives the highest Positive Intensity Score among Republicans nationwide who recognize him. Donald Trump, although universally recognized by Republicans, has the lowest Positive Intensity Score of any of the 13 candidates tested in Gallup's April 25-May 8 tracking. (Gallup USA)

May 10, 2011

Obama Bump Recedes a Bit

Barack Obama's job approval rating has fallen slightly since the day after Osama bin Laden's death was announced. But the balance of opinion regarding Obama's job performance remains more positive than it was in early April. There also continues to be more optimism about the U.S. achieving its goals in Afghanistan than there was prior to bin Laden's killing. (Pew Research Center)

May 9, 2011

Obama's Birth Certificate Convinces Some, but Not All, Skeptics

Barack Obama's release of his long-form birth certificate in late April appears to have removed some -- but not all -- doubt among Americans about where the president was born. More Americans now say he was definitely born in the United States (47%) than did so before its release (38%) and they are joined by 18% who say this is probably the case. Significantly fewer -- but still 13% -- say he was probably or definitely born in another country. (Gallup USA)

May 13, 2011

Americans Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling, 47% to 19%

By a 47% to 19% margin, Americans say they would want their member of Congress to vote against raising the U.S. debt ceiling, while 34% don't know enough to say. Republicans oppose raising the debt ceiling by 70% to 8% and independents by 46% to 15%. Democrats favor raising the ceiling by 33% to 26%. (Gallup USA)

May 13, 2011

Confidence declines among affluent investors

In a reversal of trends, a new TNS survey shows a decrease in confidence among affluent investors. In its first decline in nearly a year, the TNS Investor Confidence Index declined to 113 in April. Optimism over the direction of the economy and the stock market has eroded despite overall investor confidence remaining in positive territory. (TNS US)

May 13, 2011

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Worldwide, Peace and High Wellbeing Generally Coexist

As leaders including the Dalai Lama gather in Newark, N.J., to discuss ways to cultivate peace-building, a new Gallup analysis finds countries with the highest wellbeing tend to be the most peaceful countries in the world and those with the lowest wellbeing are the least likely to be peaceful. (Gallup USA)

May 13, 2011

CYBERWORLD

The Social Life of Health Information, 2011

The internet has changed people's relationships with information. Our data consistently show that doctors, nurses and other health professionals continue to be the first choice for most people with health concerns, but online resources, including advice from peers, are a significant source of health information in the U.S.

May 12, 2011

Mobile Banking Surges As Emerging Markets Embrace Mobile Finance

Global use of 'mobile finance'** surged in the past year as the spread of new technology and mobile banking infrastructure drove a huge increase in take-up rates around the world, new research from TNS, the world's largest custom research company, reveals today. (TNS Global)

May 12, 2011

Google Ranks Highest on Corporate Reputation

Google ranked highest, supplanting Berkshire Hathaway, which falls to the 4th position. Johnson & Johnson ranked second again, followed by 3M Company at 3rd. Apple continues a steady rise begun in 2002, ranking 5th, as its corporate reputation catches up with its elite brand status. (Harrisinteractive)

May 02, 2011

MIDDLE EAST

171-1. Palestinians Supportive of Cairo Reconciliatory Agreement

The most recent poll prepared by Dr. Nabil Kukali reveals the following:

53.0% of Palestinians believe that Dr. Salam Fayyad is the best candidate for Prime minister of the next cabinet.

79.7% support the reconciliation agreement that was signed in Cairo.

51.7% are unsatisfied to varying degrees with the way that Al-Jazeera satellite channel broadcast Palestine related issues.

69.9% oppose to varying degrees the launching of Al-Qassam rockets from Gaza into Israel.

74.5% believe that military escalation is in Israel's interest.

70.5 % expect a break out of a third Intifada if Israeli- Palestinian negotiations reach an impasse.

Beit Sahour – Public Relations Office

A recent poll was prepared by **Dr. Nabil Kukali** and published by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion PCPO; www.pcpo.org.

The poll that included a random sample of 950 Palestinian adults i.e. over 18 years old from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank including East Jerusalem and was carried out in the period May 5-12, 2011, reveals that 79.7% of Palestinians support the reconciliation agreement that was signed in Cairo.

President of the PCPO **Dr. Nabil Kukali** stated that achieving the ambitions of Palestinians necessitates measures that will establish principles of reconciliation in addition to sincere efforts and a national and responsible volition that will place national interests as a top priority. Dr. Nabil Kukali also stated that such ambitions can be achieved within a democratic framework and by promoting national unity based on partnership and political pluralism, and in accordance to laws and by employing the mass media in favor of the national interest. Dr. Nabil Kukali added that this will be the only way that will lead us out of the status of the political divide that harmed our political, cultural, social and economic situation and also affected our relations with the countries that support our issue. **Dr. Kukali** also stated that world countries are required to support the reconciliation process for the latter will promote democracy and stability in the area.

Dr. Kukali pointed out to the fact that Israel has to comply by the economic agreement that was signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority PA in Paris Paris Protocol regarding taxes and customs and has to remit all dues to their owners, since adding more economic restrictions on Palestinians will escalate violence in the region, something that the result of this poll reveals where 70.5% of Palestinians expect a break out of a third Intifada had Israeli-Palestinian negotiations reached a deadlock. When comparing this percentage with that of a previous poll that was conducted this time of last year and was published on May 5, 2010 revealed that 72.2 % of Palestinians opposed a break out of a third Intifada as opposed to 22.8 % who supported it. The effect of the Palestinian youth through the “Facebook” under the title “A third Intifada in commemorating the Nakba catastrophe” seems obvious and has clearly affected the results of this poll given the impact the popular movements in the Arab world had on the Palestinian society.

Dr. Kukali added that like people in other Arab countries, Palestinians yearn for freedom and independence and aspire to get rid of the occupation and establish united and strong country.

Dr. Kukali stated that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians 81.0 % believe that Israel is the party that will gain the benefit most from any Palestinian- Palestinian internal divide and will give it a leeway to avert international pressure and to avoid compliance to previous commitments. He also stated that such a divide will give a pretext to Israel to question the ability of Palestinians to establish their state and to sustain that there is no possibility to make peace with them. **Dr. Kukali** said that Israel claimed that it wanted to establish peace with a strong and united Palestinian leadership and not with two conflicting parties.

Dr. Kukali also stated that a plurality 53.0 % of Palestinians believe that Dr. Salam Fayyad is the best candidate for being the prime minister in the next cabinet 61.7 % in the West Bank as opposed to 38.6% in the Gaza Strip.

He added that the Palestinian support of Dr. Salam Fayyad stems from their respect to his professionalism and honesty since his holding this position in 2007, because of what he has achieved on the ground and his laying the ground for a well-developed PA.

Dr. Kukali added that Dr. Fayyad also combated corruption and money grafting in addition to his possessing a clear vision and gaining the respect of the international community. **Dr. Kukali** added that Palestinians perceive Dr. Fayyad as a person who is capable of boosting the

Palestinian economy, rebuilding Gaza, and setting up the security establishment on a solid ground towards building an independent state.

Reconciliation

79.7% of the Palestinians support the reconciliation agreement that was signed on May 4, 2011 in Cairo, whereas 18.4% oppose and 1.9% abstain from giving an opinion. However, 81.4% of Palestinians believe that Israel benefits most from any internal Palestinian dispute, whereas 17.8% believe that the conflicting factions are the ones that benefit most, yet 0.8% express no opinion.

The Best Candidate for Prime Minister

53.0% of Palestinians believe that Dr. Salam Fayyad is the best candidate for Prime Minister in the next cabinet that is due to last for one year after the reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas and before holding the next elections. However, 14.6% say that Mr. Ismael Hanieh is the best candidate, whereas 24.1% are in favor of an independent person, and 8.3% are hesitant to give an opinion.

Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel

When asked " In general, are you satisfied or unsatisfied with the way Al-Jazeera broadcasts Palestinian related news" 39.0% of Palestinians say that they are somewhat unsatisfied, whereas 12.7% say they are strongly unsatisfied , 10.0% strongly satisfied, 37.0% somewhat satisfied, and 1.3% say " I do not know".

TV Satellite Channels

42.1% of the Palestinians believe that Al-Jazeera is the channel that is watched most, followed by Al-Arabia 27.4%, then 10.2% for Palestine Channel, 7.3% for Al-Aqsa, 4.7% for MBC, 4.6% for Al Hurra, 2.4% for Al- Manar, and 1.3% for other channels.

Popular Movements and Changes in the Arab World

62.8% of Palestinians believe that the first beneficiary from the popular movements "street revolutions" and changes in the Arab world is the Arab public, followed by the United States and the West 15.8%, then Israel 11.8%, Palestinians 7.8%, Iran 1.4% and 0.4% do not know.

When asked " In your opinion, how the events that took place in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya and in other Arab countries would affect the chance of Palestinians in establishing an independent state, would they positively or negatively affect that chance?" 55.3% say they will have a positive effect, as opposed to 20.1% who say the opposite, and 23.3% believe they make no difference, and 1.3% do not know.

Resuming Peaceful Negotiations

When asked "In general, do you support or oppose resuming peaceful negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis under the current circumstances?" 40.2% of Palestinians support this resumption, whereas 32.7% have a mixed feeling, 25.2% oppose, and 1.9% I do not know.

When asked " In your opinion, which of the following means is the best to end the occupation and lead to the establishing of an independent Palestinian state" 32.1% of the respondents are in favor of negotiations until an agreement between the two parties is reached, whereas 25.0% are in favor of the non-violent popular resistance, 12.4% through the United Nations, 23.1% by holding an international conference that will impose a solution on all parties, 5.0% are for military operations, and 2.4% otherwise.

Peace with the Israelis

When asked "Do you think that Israelis are interested in making peace with Palestinians?" 44.7% say no, whereas 45.5% say yes to a certain degree, 8.4% yes, 1.4% do not know.

When asked “Do you expect that a peace agreement will be reached between Israelis and Palestinians in the next year?” a plurality 60.5% say yes to a certain degree, 23.8% say no, 14.2% say yes, and 1.5% “do not know”.

When asked “ Are you more optimistic or pessimistic than before in terms of reaching a final solution between Israel and the Palestinians” 15.4% express more optimism than before, 35.7% remain as optimistic, 24.8% remain as pessimistic, 21.9% are more pessimistic, and 2.2% do not know.

Failure of Settlement Efforts

When asked “ In case all efforts towards peace have collapsed, which of the following options are most probable to administer Palestinian affairs?” more than one-third 37.4% of Palestinians are for the dismantling the PA and holding the international community responsible for the legal vacuum that will arise, whereas 24.7% are in favor of declaring a Palestinian state and escalating resistance, 34.6% for keeping the “ status quo” with developing new strategies to run Palestinian affairs, and 3.3% say “do not know”.

Military Escalation

Almost three-fourth 74.5% of Palestinians believe that any military escalation in the Gaza Strip will be in Israel’s interest, whereas 18.9% believe it will in Hamas’s interest, 0.6% in Fatah interest, 5.3% for the Palestinian issue and 0.7% “do not know.”

When asked “What is your view regarding the resuming of launching Al-Qassam missiles from Gaza into Israel?” 13.8% say they strongly support, whereas 16.0% somewhat support, 27.1% somewhat oppose, 42.5% strongly oppose, yet 0.2% express no opinion.

Third Intifada

A majority 70.5% of Palestinians expect a break out of a third Intifada that will be similar to that of 1987 or that of Al-Aqsa one in case Israeli-Palestinian peace talks stumbled. However, 25.5% oppose its occurrence, whereas 4.0% abstain from answering this question.

Local Elections

An overwhelming majority 82.3% of Palestinians express interest in voting in the next local elections, whereas 15.7% say they will not cast their ballot, and 2.0% are hesitant to answer this question.

When asked “will you note for the same candidate or slate as you did in the last elections?” 51.1% say yes, whereas 28.0% say no, 14.9% say they have not made-up their mind yet in whether or not they will cast their ballot, and 5.6% say “do not know”.

When asked “What quality do you expect a local municipal council should have?” 42.0% say it is professionalism, whereas 14.5% say it is the political affiliation, 13.3% his/her capability to mediate with governmental institutions, 11.8% history of struggle for freedom, 9.4% good reputation, 5.5% religiosity, and 3.5% family affiliation.

Presidential Elections

This survey reveals that Mahmoud Abbas is the best candidate for presidency in the next elections with a percentage of 32.5%, followed by 12.1% for Ismael Hanieh, 10.2% Marwan Barghouthi, 6.1% Salam Fayyad, 4.2% Mustafa Barghouthi, 3.6% Mohammad Dahlan, 0.4% otherwise. However, 12.6% of the respondents say they will not cast their ballot, and 18.3% say they have not made-up their mind yet.

When asked “If new PA presidential elections are held, and Mahmoud Abbas was Fatah’s candidate, while Ismael Hanieh was Hamas’s candidate, whom would you vote for? More than half of the Palestinians 57.8% will vote for Mahmoud Abbas, whereas 13.1% will vote for

Ismael Hanieh. However, 26.0% say they will not cast their ballot, and 3.1% say "I do not know".

When asked " If competition in the elections was between Fatah's candidate Marwan Barghouthi, and Hamas's candidate Ismael Hanieh, whom would you vote for?" 55.4% say they would vote for Marwan Barghouthi, whereas 13.5% would vote for Ismael Hanieh, 28.5% will not cast ballot, and 2.6% express no opinion.

Salam Fayyad

When asked "If competition in the presidential elections was between Mahmoud Abbas and Salam Fayyad, whom would you vote for?" 48.4% of the respondents say they would vote for Mahmoud Abbas, whereas 15.2% say they would vote for Salam Fayyad, 31.5% will not cast ballot, and 4.9% do not know.

When asked " if competition was between Ismael Hanieh and Salam Fayyad, whom would you vote for?" the answer was as follows: 14.7% for Ismael Hanieh, 49.1% Salam Fayyad, 32.7 will not cast ballot, and 3.5% "do not know".

A Woman for Presidency

A little less than two-thirds 62.9% of the Palestinians oppose that a woman take over the presidency of the PA, whereas 35.1% support, and 2.0% abstain from expressing their opinion.

Performance of Mahmoud Abbas

More than half 53.7% of Palestinians say that they are satisfied with the performance of Mahmoud Abbas in his capacity as the president of the PA, whereas 41.0% say the opposite, and 5.3% express no opinion.

Peace Forces

When asked " in case a peace agreement is not far from being signed, do you support the deployment of multinational forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?" 7.8% say they strongly support, whereas 32.7% somewhat oppose, 24.5% strongly oppose, and 1.6% say "do not know".

Methodology of the Survey Study:

Miss Rana Kukali, a staff member of the Research and Studies' Section at the PCPO, said that all interviews of this survey were conducted inside the respondents' homes, i.e. face-to-face during different working hours, at least five hours a' day, including the evening time, in order to ensure proper presentation of those sub-groups of the population, which would otherwise be difficult to reach and selecting one individual in each household using the Last Birthday Method. The choices were taken from a total of 155 election sites, from which 110 are located in the West Bank and 45 sites in Gaza Strip.

Miss R. Kukali has further established that the margin of error in this poll was ± 3.18% at a confidence level of 95%. She added that the rate of the female respondents in this survey was 49.5% and that of the male respondents was 50.5%. The distribution of the random sample between the Palestinian two major regions was 63.2% in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 36.8% in Gaza Strip, allocated as follows: 52.2 % urban areas, 30.8% rural areas and 17.5% refugee camps. The average age of the sample respondents was 32.4 years.

Source: http://pcpo.org/PoolsFiles/Poll176EN.doc

WEST ASIA

171-2. Over Four in Ten Pakistanis Believe That The Influence of Religion in Pakistanis Society is on The Rise

43% Feel That The Influence Of Religion In Pakistani Society Is On The Rise While 35% Disagree: GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN

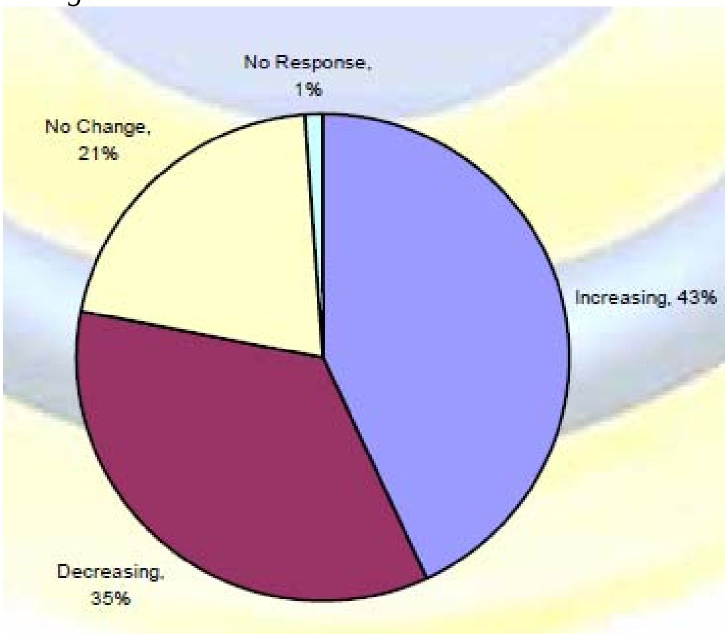
Islamabad, May 11, 2011

The results of a recent Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan show that views about the influence of religion in Pakistani society are titled slightly in favor of the view that this influence is on the rise; 43% Pakistanis think the role of religion in our society is increasing while 35% feel it is decreasing and a significant 21% feel there has been no change.

In the survey, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked which of the following statements they agreed with, the first being: *"In your view, is the influence of religion in Pakistani society increasing or decreasing?"* Results show that although the public is divided over the issue, those who feel the influence of religion in Pakistani society is increasing (43%) have a slight edge over those who think it is decreasing (35%). The remaining 21% feel that there has been no significant change in the influence of religion in our society. 1% did not respond.

A comparison with the results of a similar survey conducted two years ago shows that the public was relatively more evenly divided in 2009, with 34% people saying the influence of religion is increasing, 35% saying it is decreasing and 29% saying there has not been a significant change. 2% had not given any response. This comparison indicates that 8% people who were previously saying that there has been no change in the influence of religion in Pakistani society are now saying that there has been an increase while the percentage of those who think this influence is decreasing has remained unchanged (35%).

"In your view, is the influence of religion in Pakistani society increasing or decreasing?"



Source: Gallup and Gilani Surveys
The Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan , the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The recent survey was carried out among a sample of 2774 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during

April 2011. Error margin is estimated to be approximately ± 2-3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

Source: http://www.gallup.com.pk/Polls/11-05-11%20religion.pdf

SOUTH ASIA

171-3. Civil Society comes of age.

More than the Lokpal Bill per se, Anna Hazare's call against the government found resonance because of the public's frustration with corrupt politicos

Activism in India seems to have finally come of age with the Lokpal Bill. When veteran Gandhian Anna Hazare began his fast unto death at Delhi's Jantar Mantar to force the government's hand into drafting a more powerful Jan Lokpal Bill widely seen as a potent tool against corruption in public life at the highest level no one could have imagined the huge public response this frail old activist would garner.

The Indian middle class, for once, prefers to notoriously exist in a bubble with little political or social engagement beyond its own daily and petty concerns. In the last few years, of course, candle light vigils and campaigns such as "Justice for Jessica" or for Nitish Katara and so on have become almost fashionable and young civil society members taking part in these have managed to exert pressure on the state to resolve some of these matters. Yet, no one could have imagined the stupendous response to Anna Hazare's battle to fight corruption in public life would get.

Do you support Anna Hazare's anti-corruption campaign?

	Valid Percent
Can't Say	7.1
Yes	76.5
No	16.4
Total	100

Base: All Respondents

As the fast progressed, it became clear that this was an issue with a huge public resonance. School teachers and kids from the suburbs, the young and the old, corporate executives and businessmen not to mention aspiring social workers all assembled at various central points in cities across India to show their support for Hazare and the Congress-led government at the centre was suddenly fearful of the adverse public mood should it be seen to refuse to entertain what it had termed as strong arm, extra-Constitutional tactics.

Since then, both the government's and Hazare's appointees (in equal numbers) have come together to form a committee to draft a more powerful version of this landmark bill. And though there seems to have been a smear campaign launched against some of Hazare's team including the father-son duo of lawyers Shanti and Prashant Bhushan and there have been controversies on whether former jurist Santosh Hegde would continue on the panel and whether judges should also come under the ambit of the bill (the prime minister himself will), it is being hoped that a credible draft would soon be in the offing.

Do you think he should call off his fast unto death as requested by the PM's office?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	20.4
Yes	30.3
No	49.3
Total	100

There is no denying the urgent need for a powerful ombudsman as proposed under the bill to tackle corruption in politics and public life. The bill draft proposed by the government prior to Hazare's fast was criticized as weak and toothless, which was not serious in its intent to wipe off corruption. But the way Hazare and his team went about forcing the hand of an elected government has also been criticized. The essence of democracy, experts point out, is that people exercise their choice at the time of polls and then leave it to the elected government functioning under the Constitution to draft laws and policies.

However fair in their intent, Hazare's method is seen as extra-constitutional and analysts point out that this may set a precedence for anyone wanting to subvert the functioning of the government/state by arm-twisting it through popular opinion.

On the other hand, what the government and so-called experts seem to have missed seeing is the extent of public anger on the issue of corruption. While the technicalities of the Lokpal Bill may elude the masses, a spate of recent scams touching the highest corridors of power in the UPA regime mean that the public has lost faith in the transparency of the present government and its will to tackle corruption. This is exactly what gave such a wide resonance to the Hazare movement, which was undoubtedly timed well to capture the anti-government/anti-politicians mood that prevails in India today.

A recent CVOTER survey tracked this sense of frustration in the public and the reaction to Hazare's campaign and its aftermath. An overwhelming majority of almost 90 per cent of the respondents (756 randomly selected were polled across 21 states) agreed with the fact that though most people who joined the movement didn't quite know about the Lokpal Bill, wide-spread anger against politicians and bureaucrats amassing wealth through corrupt means led people to come out in huge numbers to support the cause.

"Do you believe that Anna Hazare's campaign is politically motivated?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	19.2
Yes	38.9
No	41.9
Total	100

Almost two thirds (64.7 per cent) of the people saw the government's agreement with Hazare's team as a victory for the latter, while most (more than 92 per cent) also agreed that the movement would not have been possible without the media. It was only because of media coverage that so many people became aware of the fight and joined in. An earlier survey done during the fast had tracked almost three-fourth (more than 76 per cent) of the respondents coming out in Hazare's support. Hazare's personal integrity and by extension that of his team seems to be vindicated despite the present smear campaigns with a conclusive majority of 42 per cent of respondents rejecting the contention that his movement may have been politically motivated.

"Do you feel the Lokpal Bill drafted by the government is an eyewash?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	32.1
Yes	47.2
No	20.6
Total	100

In the earlier survey, while the majority of 47.2 per cent of respondents had said that the government's version of the Bill was an eyewash, post the victory for the Hazare movement, there seems to be more hope with about 40 per cent of the respondents saying that they feel the government will now give its full-fledged support to anti-corruption measures and pass strong bills in this regard. Whether or not we agree with his tactics, what Hazare seems to have done is to have made those in power hear India's voice. Here's hoping that politics doesn't ruin the drafting of this bill.

Methodology

National representative sample of 1271 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 7th to 9th April 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +\-3% at national level.

Government has agreed to the demands of Anna Hazare to include Civil Society's members in the Drafting committee of Lokpal Bill. How do you see this?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	11.2
This is a victory of movement led by Anna Hazare	64.7
This shows Govenrment's Generosity	10
This is a victory of both Government and Movement	14.1
Total	100

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter4i2/newsletter_4issue2_2011.pdf

171-4. India Wants Younger Politicians

A CVOTER survey finds 60 per cent of the people polled saying that politicians above 80 should not stand for public office

Of all the things Rahul Gandhi, prime minister-in-waiting (as he is often seen as) and heir to the Nehru-Gandhi legacy, has been called, “Amul baby” must be the least offensive. Kerala Chief Minister VS Achuthanandan recently dubbed the junior Gandhi precisely that in a reference, not just to his relative youth and inexperience in Indian politics, but as a reaction to the Congress MP’s remarks against the senior leader himself.

In early April, addressing an election rally in Kerala, Gandhi had taken a swipe at the 87-and-a-half-year-old chief minister, pointing out to the crowd of listeners the irrefutable arithmetic logic that if Achuthanandan’s party, the LDF, wins the coming Assembly polls, the people of the state will have to contend with a 93-year-old chief minister by the time of the next polls! While age is certainly no bar to the hurly burly of electoral politics and theatrics in India, Gandhi was clearly targeting his remarks at the young electorate of the state, hoping against hope perhaps for a mandate of change from them.

Was VS Achuthanandan right in calling Rahul Gandhi an ‘Amul baby’?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	24.8
Yes	35.6
No	39.6
Total	100

Not one to take things quietly, Achutanandan suitably hit back at Gandhi and said that the Congress leader had come to poll-bound Kerala to campaign for “Amul babies” as he was himself an “Amul baby”. And thus the rather comic exchange progressed. Congress leaders at the centre were quick to take offence. Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee (himself a veteran) termed the Kerala chief minister’s remarks as “uncivilized” and said that they “speak of the individual taste of the person and culture” taking the moral high ground. A relatively younger Abhishek Singhvi, Congress spokesperson, said “such types of comments” were an insult to the youth of India. “People who are about to become history in few days are insulting the youth of the nation,” he said.

And further endorsing the party line was editor of Congress Sandesh, Anil Shastri, who said, “Kerala CM’s reference to Rahul Gandhi as Amul baby is irresponsible. He seems preparing his bags for a relaxed retired life after May 13 (the day when counting will be held for the Kerala elections).”

Should leaders in their 80s run for political posts?	
	Valid Percent
Can't Say	10.5
Yes, There is no age limit for retirement in Politics	9.9
Yes, but only when the politician is physically and mentally fit	20.1
No, not at all	59.6
Total	100

On the other hand, Shashi Tharoor, the relatively young twittering politico, who lost his ministership to too much communication, some would say, took the opposite point of view from his party leadership and rightly pointed out (in a tweet) that he saw nothing wrong in Gandhi being dubbed an Amul baby since Amul babies were healthy and strong!

The nation at large can be excused for seeming amused at this battle of words. This is pre-poll tamasha at its most innocuous and is hardly likely to matter to the electorate. Yet at its heart is a serious issue: One of youth versus age.

Which Indian political party is most in need of an infusion of youth power?	
	Valid Percent
Don't Know/Can't Say	40.2
INC	31.7
BJP	14.3
LDF	3.7
BSP	1.4
TMC	1.4
BJD	1.2
All Parties	1
DMK	0.5
UDF	0.5
NC	0.4
RSS	0.3
SP	0.2
Others	3.2
Total	100

Is it right for a predominantly young country with youthful aspirations and modes of thinking to be ruled by a group of aged generals? The world over, politicians are getting younger by the day you only have to look at the UK and the US to witness that. Obama, still in his 40s, is one of the youngest leaders of the world and even though he has his critics who have been screaming for his head for "non performance", more so lately, he has brought in his share of youthful energy and determination to a country beleaguered by the recession and two wars.

In India, on the other hand, we venerate age traditionally and the young are expected to bow down to experience. But if a Dhoni can lead a Tendulkar in a champion squad, why can't we have the same in Indian politics, where young leaders are hardly allowed to come up and freely implement their ideas by the old and entrenched hierarchies? In a day and age where even corporate leadership is getting younger by the day, our youth icons are many and straddle all kinds of fields. But just pause a little and think about politicians who are icons to the growing populace of young people in the country and you would be hard-pressed to come up with credible names, who have done substantial work.

Our young Parliamentarians seem content to let the older generation lead. They are in no hurry to cut their teeth politically. But in a country where the majority of the population is young, is that what the people really want or need? A recent CVOTER survey sought to answer these issues by polling 1317 randomly selected respondents across 21 states. And it seems, from the answers, that Indians want youth to represent them in public life too.

To the question whether the Kerala CM was right in calling Rahul Gandhi an "Amul baby", opinion seemed somewhat split. While a majority of people (39.6 per cent) answered "no", blaming Achuthanandan, more than 35 per cent felt that the senior Left leader was right and there was no harm in calling Gandhi that.

On being further asked whether they saw Rahul Gandhi as a top youth icon, as asserted by the Congress, a convincing majority of about 70 per cent of the respondents replied in the affirmative something that will certainly gladden the hearts in New Delhi seeking to pitch in Gandhi junior in the top role in the country in the near future.

But the most conclusive vote came by way of answers to the question whether the people believed leaders in the 80s should run for political posts. While 20 per cent pointed out that there is no harm provided the politician is mentally and physically fit, a majority of about 60 per cent of respondents said a clear "no" to the query. Indians want younger leaders, seems to be the clear call of the people.

So which political party is in need of fresh infusion of young blood? While about 40 per cent (the majority) replied "can't say", a majority (31.7 per cent) ironically enough named the Indian National Congress. In contrast, 14.3 per cent named the BJP while just 3.7 named the LDF, Achuthanandan's party! Politics is a strange game, after all.

Methodology

National representative sample of 1317 randomly selected respondents by CATI across 21 states in India during 14th to 16th April 2011. Data weighted to known census profile. Margin of error +\-3% at national level.

Source: http://teamcvoter.com/2011/newsletter4i2/newsletter_4issue2_2011.pdf

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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

171-5. People Happy With Their Choice Of Party In 2009 More Than Twice As Likely To Vote As Those No Longer Happy With Their 2009 Choice

A survey of 2 000 metro adults conducted mid-February showed that, amongst those happy with their choice of political party in 2009 and who would vote for the same party on 18 May, 89% claimed that they would vote. This drops to 43% amongst those no longer happy with their previous vote and who would change the party they vote for.

Whilst both these figures are likely to be overstated, they do suggest that people still happy with their political affiliation in 2009 are more than twice as likely to vote as those who are no longer happy. This was revealed today by TNS Research Surveys (Pty) Ltd, South Africa's leading marketing and social insights company.

This is a clear indication that dissatisfaction with one's previous party will be likely to be one of the causes of not voting on 18 May. Service delivery is at least a part of this dissatisfaction: 56% of those planning to vote are not happy with the service delivery they receive from their local municipality but this rises to 67% amongst those not planning to vote. It must also be borne in mind that some parties have also merged with others and that this may make some people feel that they have no political home. Indeed, it does appear, overall, that there are a large number of people lacking a political home at present.

Turning this around, 14% of people polled *and who said that they planned to vote* said that they would *not* be likely to vote for the same party in the 18 May local government elections as they voted for in the 2009 national elections. The company added that 73% said they *would* vote for the same party whilst 13% gave a *don't know* response.

This also suggests that, even amongst those who *do* plan to go to the polls, over an eighth in February were still to decide whilst a seventh represent the potential swing vote.

Amongst those who said that they did *not* plan to vote, 56% said that, if they did, they would *not* vote for the same party as before. Of these, only 22% would support the same party as before whilst 22% gave *don't know* response. It seems from this that, if those not planning to vote could be persuaded to vote, the swings might be much larger.

How do turn-out levels vary?

Whilst claimed turn-out levels are likely to be over-stated, it is possible to examine relativities. The study conducted by TNS Research Surveys suggests that turn-out in metro areas will be highest in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and the East rand and lowest in Soweto, the Vaal Triangle/South Rand and East London.

Differences by age are lower than might be expected but claimed turn-out levels do drop amongst younger people.

Technical note

The study was conducted amongst 2 000 adults (1260 blacks, 385 whites, 240 coloureds and 115 Indians/Asians) in the seven major metropolitan areas: it has a margin of error of under 2.5% for the results found for the total sample. The studies use probability sampling techniques and are fully representative of the major metropolitan areas. The studies were conducted by TNS Research Surveys (Pty) Ltd as part of their ongoing research into current social and political issues and were funded by TNS Research Surveys.

Source:http://www.tnsresearchsurveys.co.za/news-centre/pdf/2011/VotingChoice-10May2011.pdf

EAST EUROPE

171-6. Chernobyl: A Quarter-Century Later

The Chernobyl disaster remains to be the greatest catastrophe of the XIX century.

MOSCOW, April 26, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Centre (VCIOM) presents the data describing how Russians assess the Chernobyl disaster, and what consequences they think are the most threatening.

The level of anxiety of Russians about the power plants has sharply increased: today Russians think these facilities are the most threatening to ecology (59%, in previous years 29-39%). The importance of transportation and disposing of nuclear waste has considerably increased (from 29 to 40%). Russians also think the attention should be drawn to the deforestation (43%), followed by the problem of domestic waste which is seen as important again (from 27 to 38%).

The Chernobyl disaster is regarded to be the biggest man-made catastrophe of the XX century causing the gravest consequences (79%). Those who think so are mainly Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (84%), as well as residents of middle cities (83%) and 45-59-year-old Russians (83%). Eighteen percent of respondents consider that the consequences of the disaster were serious but no catastrophic as viewed before. Those who share this stance are residents of small cities (21%), 18-24-year-old (22%) and 35-44-year-old respondents (21%).

As before, Russians report that the most tragic consequence of the Chernobyl disaster is diseases and mortality increase caused by radioactive condemnation (74%). This is followed by the damage to nature (56%). **Compared to these factors, the following consequences are regarded less important:** loss of trust in the safety of nuclear technologies (14%), lack of support for disaster fighters (13%) suspension of nuclear energy development

(4%). Other 14% think that the consequences of the disaster can be assessed only by future generations (in 2006 - 9%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 9-10 April, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

In your opinion, what is the most dangerous thing threatening the environment? *(close-ended question, up to three answers)*

	2005	2006	2009	2010	2011
Nuclear power stations	29	31	**19**	**21**	**59**
Deforestation	37	30	**37**	**44**	**43**
Transportation and disposing of nuclear waste	39	36	**28**	**29**	**40**
Domestic waste, landfill, garbage	41	31	**51**	**27**	**38**
Industrial enterprises (metallurgical, chemical plants)	41	41	**35**	**38**	**31**
Transport (automobile, railroad, aviation)	34	28	**37**	**38**	**21**
Oil and gas (and other minerals) extraction and refining	11	13	**10**	**15**	**10**
Poaching	7	6	**10**	**6**	**8**
Agricultural enterprises (fertilizers, animal burials et cet.)	5	8	**7**	**8**	**7**
Military warehouses	5	4	**2**	**4**	**6**
Hydroelectric power plants, power stations	6	6	**3**	**18**	**5**
Domestic appliances (refrigerators, et cet.)	2	2	**3**	**7**	**4**
Hard to tell	3	2	**3**	**4**	**1**

How would you assess the Chernobyl disaster today? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	2006	2011
It was the biggest man-made catastrophe of the XX century with the gravest consequences	82	**79**
The consequences of the Chernobyl disaster were serious, but not so huge as they seemed to be 20-25 years ago	15	**18**

Hard to tell	4	**3**

Which consequences of the Chernobyl disaster do you think were the most serious? *(close-ended question, one answer)*		
	2006	**2011**
Diseases and mortality increase due to radioactive condemnation	77	**74**
Damage to nature and environment	55	**56**
Loss of trust of people in the safety of nuclear technologies	12	**14**
Lack of government support for the disaster fighters	16	**13**
Suspension of nuclear power development	4	**4**
Today the consequences are not clear; they will become apparent in the future	9	**14**
Hard to tell	2	**2**

***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/111529.html

171-7. De-Stalinization: Pro Et Contra

The de-Stalinization course is supported by only 26% of Russians. Others think this program is nothing but verbiage and mythmaking.

MOSCOW, April 27, 2010. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data concerning how Russians assess the role of Joseph Stalin, and what they think about the de-Stalinization project.

A quarter of Russians **(24%) report their families suffered from Stalin`s repressions (27% five years ago).** Ten percent of them know about the fate of the repressed relatives; other 14% know only about their prosecution. Almost half of respondents report there were no repressed persons in their families (46%). Other one-quarter (26%) recognize that they know nothing about the impact the repressions have on their relatives` fate. At the same time, the number of those who are not aware has increased over the recent five years (from 23 to 26%); on the contrary, the number of those who know about the repressed relatives has decreased (from 27 to 24%).

More and more Russians consider that the role of Stalin in the national history is rather positive (from 15% to 26%); the number of those who oppose them is decreasing (from 33% to 24% respectively). A relative majority of respondents still believe his role is ambiguous (39%). Elderly respondents (40%) and CPRF supporters (41%) think that Stalin did more good than bad. United Russia party supporters assess his role negatively (28%). Russians aged 35-44 (42%) and Fair Russia party advocates (44%) have equal positive and negative attitudes towards Stalin. Those who positively perceive Stalin are those respondents who do not have repressed relatives (30%); however, those who have repressed relatives also support this stance (28%). At the same time, the latter more often report that Stalin did more bad (32%).

The majority of Russians think de-Stalinization is a myth that has nothing to do with the current problems the country faces and that the de-Stalinization plan will alter historical consciousness (45%). Those who think so are mainly supporters of CPRF (59%) and LDPR (51%) parties, as well as 35-44-year-old (53%) and elderly Russians (50%). On the contrary, more than one-quarter of respondents (26%) tend to think that de-Stalinization is a timely measure and will help Russia to move forward. Those who share this point of view are Fair Russia and United Russia supporters (31 and 34% respectively). Remarkably, that negative attitudes toward de-Stalinization is expressed both by those who do not have repressed relatives (50%) and those who have relatives being prosecuted in the Stalin's times (46%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 16-17 April, 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 have relatives repressed in 1930-40s?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	2006	2011
Yes, I know a lot about their fate from the stories of my relatives and family archives (letters, photos)	10	**10**
I know that my relatives were repressed but I do not know about the details	17	**14**
None of my relatives were repressed	47	**46**
I do not know if someone from my relatives was repressed or not	23	**26**
Hard to tell	4	**4**

Which one of the following statements is closer to your point of view? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	Total respondents	Supporters of parties					
		CPRF	LDPR	Fair Russia	United Russia	Other parties	I would not take part in elections
De-Stalinization is a myth, empty words, that have nothing to do with the actual problems the country faces; it will lead to the	**45**	59	51	39	39	48	50

restriction of the freedom of speech, alter historical consciousness and make it one-sided							
De-Stalinization is a timely measure; Russia will not be able to move forward, develop successfully without recognizing officially the mistakes of the past; and the government should tackle it	**26**	23	19	31	34	38	18
Hard to tell	**28**	18	30	30	27	14	32

Which one of the following statements is closer to your point of view? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	Total respondents	Did you have relatives repressed in 1930-40s?		
		Yes	**No**	**I do not know if there is someone among my relatives who was repressed**
De-Stalinization is a myth, empty words, that have nothing to do with the actual problems the country faces; it will lead to the restriction of the freedom of speech, alter historical	**45**	46	50	39

consciousness and make it one-sided				
De-Stalinization is a timely measure; Russia will not be able to move forward, develop successfully without recognizing officially the mistakes of the past; and the government should tackle it	**26**	30	24	28
Hard to tell	**28**	24	26	32

Assessing the role of Stalin during his reign, did he do more good or bad for the country?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	2007	January 2011	April 2011
More good	**15**	**23**	**26**
More bad	**33**	**27**	**24**
Both good and bad equally	**37**	**38**	**39**
Hard to tell	**14**	**13**	**12**

***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/111561.html

171-8. Will Expense Declaration Of State Officials Help Combating Corruption?

67% of respondents support the initiative of Vladimir Putin to oblige officials report revenues and expenditures. However, 42% are confident that this measure will not help combat corruption.

MOSCOW, April 26, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data describing the attitudes of Russians toward a new initiative of V. Putin to oblige officials to declare not only income but expenditure as well; whether Russians think this measure would be effective or not.

The majority of Russians know about the initiative of V. Putin to oblige officials to declare not only revenues, but expenditures (62%): 28% are well informed, 34% heard something about that. Thirty seven percent of respondents heard for the first time about that from the interviewer.

Those who are familiar most with the prime minister`s proposal are Russians aged above 45 (30-33%) and respondents with secondary special and higher level of education (32%). Those who did not hear anything about that are Russians aged 18-24 (52%) and those with low level of education (41%).

Sixty seven percent of respondents support V. Putin. Most of them are residents of middle cities (73%) and CPRF adherents (78%). Those who support the initiative think that it will allow **revealing mismatch between income and expenditures and decrease the level of corruption (48%).** Respondents are also confident that such measure is fair (22%), that the need for such an initiative has long been ripe (9%). Some people believe that the measure will prevent the officials from deceiving; 5% generally positively assess the measure.

Only 6% are negative toward the idea, mostly because they believe the measure will be ineffective (51%). The second reason why Russians disapprove of the proposal is their confidence that the initiative is populist.

Russians are hard to give the definite assessment of the effectiveness of the proposed measure. 45% of respodnents think that declaration of both incomes and expenditures will be an effective measure against corruption. Those who think so are basically supporters of the United Russia party (53%) and non-parliament parties (52%), as well as residents of middle cities (49%). On the contrary, 42% of respondents believe the measure will be ineffective: mostly LDPR adherents (48%), Muscovites and St.Petersburgians and residents of big cities (46-48%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 16-17 April, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Do you know/have you heard/ do you hear for the first time about the initiative of V. Putin to ol declare revenues and expenditures? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	Total respondents	**Aged 18-24**	**Aged 25-34**	**Aged 35-44**	**Aged 45-59**
I know about that	**28**	21	25	26	30
I heard something, but not in details	**34**	27	32	39	35
I hear for the first time	**37**	52	42	34	33
Hard to tell	**1**	0	1	0	2

Do you generally support the proposal? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	Total respondents	**Moscowan St.Petersburg**	**More than 500thousand**	**100 - 500thousand**	**Less than 100thousand**	**Rural area**
Definitely support	**41**	29	37	54	42	39
Rath	**26**	34	29	19	24	2

er support						7
Rather not support	**4**	5	5	3	3	5
Definitely not support	**2**	0	2	3	2	3
Indifferent	**23**	21	24	19	24	25
Hard to tell	**4**	10	3	2	5	2

Why do you support the proposal? *(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who support the initiative)*	
It will allow revealing mismatch between incomes and expenditures, decreasing the level of corruption	**48**
It is fair when people know how the state officials live and what deputies spend money on	**22**
The measure is ripe; the state officials are afraid of nothing	**9**
It will prevent the officials from telling lies when declaring	**3**
General positive assessment	**5**
Other	**1**
Hard to tell	**15**

Why did not you support this proposal? *(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who do not support the initiative)*	
Ineffective measure; the state officials will find ways to bypass it; no one will declare the true information	**51**
Populism, obvious failure	**39**
Hard to tell	**10**

In your opinion, is the declaration of revenues and expenditures by state officials an effective or ineffective measure against corruption? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	Total respondents	**Supporters of parties**					
		CPRF	**LDPR**	**Fair Russia**	**United Russia**	**Other parties**	**I would not participate in elections**

Rather effective	**45**	45	42	45	53	52	32
Rather ineffective	**42**	45	48	44	34	38	55
Hard to tell	**13**	9	10	10	13	10	13

***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/111557.html

WEST EUROPE

171-9. The Attitudes of Europeans Towards Tourism

May 13, 2011

Introduction

This Flash Eurobarometer "*Survey on the attitudes of Europeans towards tourism*" (No 328) has been conducted at the request of Directorate General Enterprise and Industry in the 27 EU Member States and in five additional countries: Croatia, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway and Iceland.

The objectives of this survey were to study:

• respondents' travel profiles in 2010 – distinguishing between "short private" and holiday trips.

• the reasons why respondents did not go on holiday in 2010

• the characteristics of citizens' main holiday trip in 2010 (e.g. method of transport used)

• the financial aspects of taking a holiday (e.g. how to save money while being on holiday)

• various attitudes of citizens towards tourism (e.g. their preferred holiday destinations)

• respondents' vacation plans for 2011.

In February 2009 and 2010, similar Flash Eurobarometers were conducted (No 258 & 291)1 in the 27 EU Member States; the three waves of the survey asked EU citizens about their holidays in 2008, 2009 and 2010 as well as their vacation plans for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The current report presents comparative data between those three waves.

The fieldwork was conducted between 24 and 28 February, 2011. Over 30,000 randomly selected citizens aged 15 and over were interviewed in the 27 EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway and Iceland. The sample size varied between countries, ranging from about 500 in the smallest countries to about 2,000 in the largest (see section "Survey details" in the Annex where the actual sample sizes for the 32 countries are indicated).

Interviews were predominantly carried out by telephone. However, due to the low fixed-line telephone coverage in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, face-to-face interviews were also conducted in those countries (70% telephone and 30% face-to-face interviews). Note: Flash Eurobarometer surveys systematically include mobile phones in samples in Austria, Finland, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

To correct for sampling disparities, a post-stratification weighting of the results was implemented, based on the main socio-demographic variables. More details on survey methodology are included in the Annex of this report (see section "Survey details").

Some questions in this survey were only presented to a sub-group of respondents (e.g. just those who had not travelled in 2010); as a result, the sample size per country could be relatively small (e.g. n=105 in Norway) and differences in country rankings, for example, should be treated with caution.

Main findings

Travel trends in 2010

• Almost three-quarters (73%) of EU citizens said they had travelled, either for business or private purposes, at least once in 2010; 32% had made at least one holiday trip and at least one “short private” trip, 24% had made at least one holiday trip but no “short private” trips and 12% had made at least one “short private” trip but no holiday trips. Slightly less than 3 in 10 (29%) EU citizens had not travelled for leisure purposes in 2010.

• Respondents in Turkey and Hungary were the most likely to say that they had not travelled for private purposes (68% and 60%, respectively). In another four countries, at least 4 in 10 respondents had not made short private trips or holiday trips: Slovakia (40%), Estonia (41%), Portugal (43%) and Romania (46%).

• Comparing travel for leisure purposes in 2008, 2009 and 2010, it could be seen that, in the current wave, respondents were somewhat less likely to say that they had not travelled for leisure purposes (29% in 2010 vs. 32%-33% in 2008/2009). Furthermore, last year’s survey results had shown a decrease in the proportion of EU citizens who had made at least one “short private” trip and at least one holiday trip (from 39% in 2008 to 27% in 2009; -12 points); respondents in the current wave, however, were – once again – more likely to have made at least one holiday trip and at least one “short private” trip (from 27% in 2009 to 32% in 2010; +5 points).

• About a quarter (24%) of respondents who had travelled for leisure purposes had made just one holiday or “short private” trip. About a fifth (21%) had been on two holidays or “short private” trips, 16% had been on three leisure trips and 17% had made between four and five such trips.

Finally, one in five respondents, who had travelled for leisure purposes in 2010, had made more than five leisure trips in that year.

Financial aspects

• Across almost all countries included in this survey, the largest proportion of respondents – who had not taken a holiday in 2010 – said this was because of financial reasons; such reasons were cited by more than 6 in 10 respondents in Hungary (68%), Bulgaria (65%) and Romania (62%).

• When asked which holiday leisure activities EU citizens would give up first if savings were needed while they were actually on holiday, the largest proportions of interviewees selected “beauty or wellness treatments” (27%; + 3 percentage points compared to 2009) and shopping (21%; unchanged compared to 2009).

Holiday focus and attractions

• The largest proportion of holidaymakers across the EU (36%) said that the major motivation for their main holiday in 2010 had been “rest and recreation”. Just under one in five (18%) had wanted a sun/beach holiday and 17% said the main objective had been to visit friends or relatives.

• In almost all countries surveyed, respondents who preferred to spend their holidays in “traditional” tourist destinations outnumbered those who favoured visiting “alternative or emerging” destinations.

Countries with a high proportion of respondents who preferred “emerging” tourist destinations were Iceland (43%), Norway and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (both 44%).

• More than a third (36%) of EU citizens answered that a non-traditional destination would allow them to explore local cultures and lifestyles. As in the previous waves of this survey, financial considerations also played a role: 21% mentioned “better value for money” and 17% selected “cheaper costs/lower prices”.

• When deciding on a holiday destination, the largest proportions (32%) of EU citizens named the location’s environment (e.g. its overall attractiveness) as the key consideration. Cultural heritage (27%) and options for entertainment (14%) were the second and third most widespread responses in regard to factors that influenced a choice of destination.

Arranging a holiday

• A share of 44% of holidaymakers across the EU had travelled to their main holiday destination by car or motorbike; this is the lowest proportion measured since the first wave of this survey (47%-48% in 2008/2009). At the same time, taking a flight to go on holiday had never been as popular as in 2010 (39%; +4 points compared to 2009).

• In most countries surveyed (25 out of 32), more than half of holidaymakers had organised their holiday individually. The proportions of respondents who had made at least one holiday trip in 2010 and had booked their main holiday themselves were highest in Turkey (80%), Iceland (79%), Croatia (78%), Romania (77%), Hungary (76%), Latvia (74%), Greece (74%), Lithuania (73%) and Poland (72%).

• About one in seven (14%) had booked travel tickets or accommodation through a travel agency and 10% had booked a package tour or all-inclusive holiday through a travel agency. A somewhat higher proportion (13%) had opted for a package tour or all-inclusive holiday booked via the Internet.

• Fifty-eight percent of EU citizens said that the views of friends and colleagues were the (first or second) most important sources of information when making decisions about travel and holiday plans. The Internet was considered to be the main source of information by 45% of respondents, and a lower proportion (29%) mentioned personal experience.

• Respondents who had been on a “cultural” holiday were less inclined than their counterparts to rely on personal experience (25% compared to, for example, 30% of holidaymakers who had wanted sun/beach) and more likely to rely on guidebooks and magazines (19% compared to, for example, 11% of holidaymakers who had wanted a sun/beach holiday).

• As in previous waves, the largest difference in terms of information sources when comparing respondents with a preference for “off the beaten track” holidays and those who preferred more “traditional” holiday destinations was seen when looking at the importance of the Internet: 54% of the former respondents said that the Internet was an important source of information when planning a holiday compared to 42% of the latter.

Vacation plans for 2011

• When asked about their holiday destination in 2011, almost 4 in 10 (38%) EU citizens answered that they were planning a holiday in their home country. One in five interviewees said they were planning to take a holiday within the EU and a somewhat lower proportion (16%) indicated that a non-EU country would be their main holiday destination in 2011.

• Almost a quarter (23%) of respondents did not know yet where they would spend their main holiday in 2011 or preferred not to answer this question; roughly 1 in 20 (4%) interviewees spontaneously said they would not go on holiday in 2011.

• In 15 countries, a majority of these respondents were planning to spend their holiday in their own country; the highest shares were found in Turkey (88%), Croatia (86%), Greece (85%) and Bulgaria (82%). In nine countries, the largest proportion of respondents, who were planning a holiday in 2011, had chosen a destination elsewhere in the EU; respondents in Luxembourg were the most likely to have made such a choice (62%). Finally, in two countries, about half of respondents were planning a holiday outside the EU: Slovenia (51%) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (50%).

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_328_en.pdf

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171-10. Youth On The Move

Introduction

Young people have been hit particularly hard by the recent social and economic crisis in Europe. As part of the EU‟s Europe 2020 strategy, the "Youth on the Move" Flagship initiative proposes 28 key actions aimed at increasing young people‟s chances of finding a job by enhancing opportunities to go abroad for education or training purposes and by improving the quality and attractiveness of education and training in Europe1.

The primary objective of the Flash Eurobarometer survey *"Youth on the Move"* (No 319b) was to looks at how mobile young people (aged 15 to 35) in Europe are for the purpose of education and work and how they view the attractiveness of different education settings. It also looked at their main concerns when seeking employment and their willingness to set up a business, or move to another country for employment.

More precisely, the survey covered the following topics:

Attractiveness of vocational education and training
Attractiveness of higher education
Satisfaction with guidance and counselling received during school education
Youth mobility – stays abroad for education or training purposes
Purpose and length of young people‟s learning mobility period abroad
Benefits of spending time abroad for education purposes
Staying abroad for volunteering or work-related purposes
Young people‟s reasons for not spending any time abroad
Perceptions about difficulties in finding a job
Young people‟s desire to set up their own business or to work in another European country .

The survey obtained phone interviews with nationally representative samples of young people (aged between 15 and 35) living in the 27 EU Member States, as well as in Croatia, Iceland, Norway and Turkey. The target sample size in most countries was 1,000 interviews, in Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta and Iceland the sample size was 800 respondents; in total, 30,312 interviews were conducted by Gallup‟s network of fieldwork organisations between 26 and 30 January 2011. Statistical results were weighted to correct for known demographic discrepancies.

Main findings

Attractiveness of vocational education and training and higher education

Almost 8 in 10 (78%) of the young adults surveyed thought that vocational education and training was an attractive option for young people in their country; a figure similar to the one observed for the attractiveness of higher education (76%).

The highest proportions of young people who thought that **vocational education and training** was an attractive option for young people in their country were seen in Finland, Austria and Germany (93%-95%), while the lowest proportion was observed in Italy (50%).

Roughly 9 in 10 respondents in Turkey, Slovakia, Norway, Iceland and Denmark said that **higher education** was an attractive option for young people in their country (88%-91%). In Greece, France, Lithuania and Italy, on the other hand, roughly one in three – or more – said that higher education was *not* an attractive option (between 32% and 38%).

In almost all countries, "improving one‟s job opportunities" was the most frequently mentioned reason for choosing vocational education and training; on average, 59% of young people considered this to be the *most important* or *second most important* reason for pursuing **vocational education or training**. Roughly equal proportions said that young people wanted to obtain a higher wage level or acquire practical skills (38%-39%).

Similarly, a slim majority (53%) of respondents said that young people went into **higher education** mainly to improve their job opportunities. Roughly equal shares thought that young people chose this type of studies to obtain a higher level qualification or a higher wage level (45%-46%).

"Improving one‟s job opportunities" was also the most frequently mentioned reason for going into higher education in about half of the countries surveyed. In a similar number of countries, the largest proportion of respondents selected "obtaining higher wage levels" as the *most* or *second most important* reason to start higher education studies.

Guidance and counselling received during school education

Roughly equal shares of young people answered that the **educational advice** they had received during their education had been either "satisfactory" (27%) or "good" (26%), while less than a tenth (7%) said it had been "very good". About a quarter of respondents were not satisfied with the educational advice they had received (they described it as "poor" or "very poor") and 15% had not received any advice on further education and training options or considered the question "not applicable".

Roughly a fifth (22%) of young people described the **career advice** received at school as "good" and a quarter said it had been "satisfactory", while a minority (5%) said that counselling on future employment opportunities had been "very good". Roughly 3 in 10 (29%) respondents answered that the career guidance they had received during their school education had been either "poor" or "very poor", while 17% had not received any advice on vocational matters or considered the question "not applicable".

Young people in Finland, Belgium and Bulgaria were among the most likely to describe the guidance and counselling on further education options and employment opportunities received during their school education as "good" or "very good", while those in France, Greece and Italy were more likely to describe this guidance as "poor" or "very poor".

Youth mobility

One in seven (14%) young adults participating in this study said they had stayed abroad – or were staying abroad at the time of the survey – for education purposes. At the individual country level, this proportion ranged from 3% in Turkey and roughly 10% in Bulgaria, the UK and Romania to about 40% in Cyprus and Luxembourg.

Of the respondents who had stayed abroad, 43% said they had studied abroad as part of their **higher education studies** and the same proportion answered that they had done so as part of their **lower or upper secondary school education**; one-third of respondents had studied abroad as part of their **vocational education and training**.

Roughly a quarter (26%) of these respondents went abroad for a traineeship in a company or a similar organisation during their higher education studies, while 21% went for a traineeship as part of their vocational education and training.

Learning mobility periods that were part of higher education training lasted longer than those during secondary school education or vocational education and training. For example, 21% of respondents who had studied abroad during their higher education studies answered that they had been abroad for more than one year, while 35% said they had been abroad for a period between three months and a year.

More than a tenth (13%) of respondents with a higher education qualification had stayed abroad for *at least three months* for education purposes. The proportion of respondents with a vocational qualification who had stayed abroad for *more than three weeks* for educational purposes was less than a tenth (7%).

About two-thirds (65%) of respondents said they had used private funds or savings to **finance their longest stay abroad**. All other financial resources listed in the survey were mentioned by less than a fifth of respondents: for example, 18% had received a national or regional study loan or grant and 15% mentioned a scholarship of an EU mobility programme.

Respondents in Lithuania (35%) and Finland (34%) were the most likely to have studied abroad in the framework of an EU funded mobility programme Less than 5% of interviewees in Turkey, Norway and Croatia gave a similar response.

Benefits of spending time abroad for educational purposes

Almost 6 in 10 (57%) respondents said that their **improved foreign language skills** were the *most* or *second most important* benefit of their longest learning mobility period abroad and 4 in 10 respondents selected a greater **awareness of another culture** as a major benefit. Smaller shares of respondents listed a greater ability to adapt to new situations (22%), new professional skills (18%), better interpersonal skills (17%), better opportunities for subsequent employment (16%) or better academic knowledge (12%).

In 18 out of 31 countries surveyed, the largest proportion of respondents thought that having improved their foreign language skills was the *most* or *second most important* benefit of their longest learning mobility period abroad. In 12 countries, the largest proportion of respondents selected a greater awareness of another culture as an important outcome of their longest stay abroad.

Staying abroad for volunteering or work-related purposes

A fifth of young people said they had stayed abroad for at least one month for reasons other than education/training or vacation/tourism; this figure was somewhat higher than the one observed for learning mobility periods abroad (14%).

Roughly 4 in 10 respondents in Iceland (38%) and Ireland (39%) said they had worked abroad or had been abroad for volunteering or other purposes. Respondents in Turkey, were – once again – the least likely to say that they had stayed abroad (5%).

Young people's reasons for not spending any time abroad

Of these respondents who had not stayed abroad, almost 4 in 10 (37%) said they were not interested in going abroad. A third answered that they had no access to funding or that it would have been too expensive to stay abroad, while a quarter had family commitments that kept them from going abroad.

The proportion of respondents who said they had not spent any time abroad mainly because they were **not interested in going abroad** ranged from 25% in Turkey to 56% in Cyprus. In a further three countries, a slim majority of interviewees said they were not interested in going abroad: Greece (52%), Poland and Luxembourg (both 51%).

A slim majority of respondents in Romania (51%), Hungary, Croatia and Bulgaria (all 55%) said that a **lack of funding** was the *most* or *second most important* reason for not having spent time abroad.

Young people's difficulties in finding a job

A slim majority (53%) of respondents said that young job seekers in their country were worried about the **absence of jobs in their city or region**. About 4 in 10 (42%) respondents mentioned **a lack of good job opportunities** in young people"s field of study and the same number (42%) referred to the fact that **jobs were poorly paid**.

The fact that no jobs were available in young people"s city or region was cited as one of the main challenges for finding a job by more than 6 in 10 respondents in Hungary (63%), Finland (65%), Croatia and Ireland (both 67%).

Roughly two-thirds of respondents in Romania (65%) and Bulgaria (66%) said that one of the main concerns of young job seekers in their country was that the available jobs were poorly paid. Respondents in Denmark and Sweden were the least likely to express this view (both 14%).

Young people's desire to work in another European country

A slim majority of young adults said they were willing – or would like – to work in another European country. Roughly equal shares would like to work abroad for a limited amount of time (28%) and for a longer period (25%). Conversely, more than 4 in 10 (44%) young people were not willing or would not like to work in another European country.

Respondents in Iceland (84%), followed by those in Sweden (76%), Bulgaria (74%), Romania (73%) and Finland (71%), were the most likely to want to work abroad. This proportion decreased to 28% in Turkey.

A slim majority (56%) of young men said they were willing – or would like – to work in another European country, compared to 49% of young women. Looking only at respondents who had completed their education, the higher the level of education they reached, the more likely they were to be willing to work abroad (55% of respondents with a higher education qualification, compared to 33% of those with a lower secondary level qualification).

Young people's desire to set up their own business

Young adults were divided as to whether they would (43%) or would not (42%) like to set up their own business in the future. Countries with a high proportion of young adults eager to start up a company were Romania, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria (61%-74%).

One in seven young adults said that setting up a business was too risky and another 13% thought it would be too complicated. "Not having adequate entrepreneurship skills" (7%) and "access to finance" (8%) were each mentioned by less than a tenth of respondents.

While 50% of 15-19 year-olds were eager to start up a company, this proportion decreased to 34% among 30-35 year-olds. Looking only at respondents who had completed their education, it was noted that respondents with an upper secondary general education qualification (42%), those with a vocational qualification (40%) and those with a higher education

qualification (40%) were more likely than their counterparts with other qualifications to say that they would like to set up their own business in the future.
Source: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_319b_en.pdf

NORTH AMERICA

171-11. Obama's Approval Bump Hasn't Transferred to 2012 Prospects

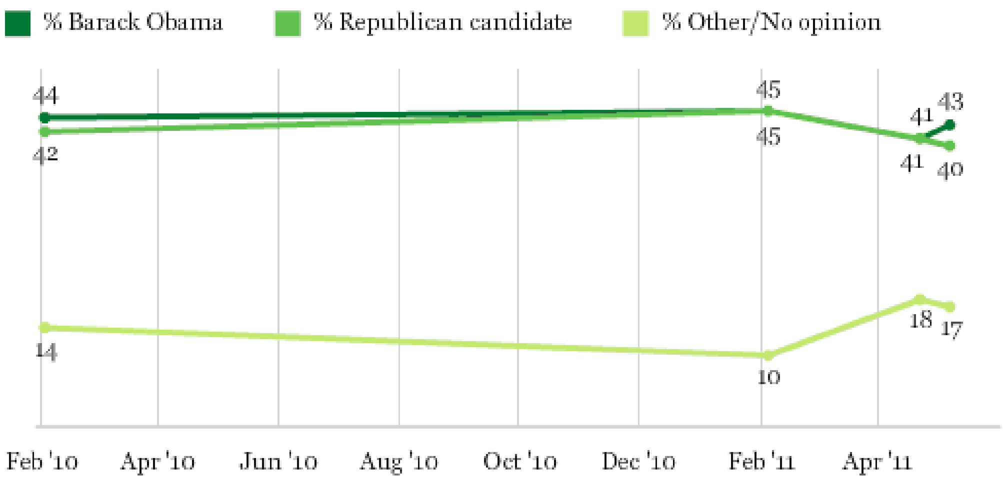
Obama still running neck and neck with unnamed Republican candidate

May 11, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Given a choice between Barack Obama and an unnamed Republican, 43% of registered voters say they are more likely to vote for Obama and 40% are more likely to vote for the Republican. This is essentially unchanged from April and February, when voters' preferences were evenly split.

2012: Barack Obama vs. Generic Republican -- Based on Registered Voters

Thinking about the presidential election in November 2012, are you more likely to vote for Barack Obama or for the Republican Party's candidate for president?



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The May 5-8 Gallup poll, conducted after the death of Osama bin Laden, did not pick up the same rally effect in support for Obama's re-election as Gallup Daily tracking has found in the president's job approval rating.

The two-percentage-point increase in support for Obama's re-election over the past month, from 41% in the April 20-22 poll to 43% today, is not statistically significant. But the seven-point rise in Obama's overall job approval rating across the same two polls, from 47% to 54%, is.

The latter increase almost certainly reflects the modest rally in Americans' approval of the president after last week's announcement that U.S. military forces killed bin Laden in Pakistan. Gallup Daily tracking documented a six-point increase in Obama's overall job approval rating in three-day rolling averages before and after the May 1 announcement, from 46% to 52%. His approval rating has since stayed above 50%.

Republicans Drive Obama's Approval Rally

Gallup Daily tracking finds that Obama's approval rally has occurred most sharply among Republicans, which may be why it has not transferred to an increase in voter support for Obama in 2012 against an unnamed Republican.

Republicans' approval of Obama has more than doubled since bin Laden's death, rising to 21% the week of May 2-8 from 10% April 25-May 1. His approval rating rose less among independents, to 47% from 40%, and -- remarkably -- changed little among Democrats.

President Barack Obama Job Approval

	National adults	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
	%	%	%	%
May 2-8, 2011	51	21	47	83
April 25-May 1, 2011	44	10	40	80
July 20-26, 2009	56	21	51	88

Based on Gallup Daily tracking weekly averages

GALLUP'

Republicans' approval of Obama has not been this high since July 2009. At that time, when 21% of Republicans approved of the job Obama was doing, approval among independents and Democrats was higher than it is today, at 51% and 88%, respectively.

The finding that independents' and Democrats' approval of Obama has not reverted to July 2009 levels may reflect their lower enthusiasm about bin Laden's death compared with Republicans'. Indeed, inGallup's May 2 bin Laden reaction poll, fewer than half of independents (42%) and Democrats (44%), compared with 52% of Republicans, said killing bin Laden was "extremely important" for the U.S. Similarly, fewer than 6 in 10 independents (54%) and Democrats (58%), compared with 71% of Republicans, preferred killing bin Laden to capturing him.

More generally, Obama's job approval increased slightly across most demographic groups after the bin Laden announcement, including among the major gender, racial, age, education, and household income groups.

2012 Voter Preferences Unchanged by Party ID

Despite the recent surge in Republicans' approval of the job Obama is doing as president, Republican registered voters' likelihood of voting for him over an unnamed Republican for president in 2012 is virtually unchanged, now 5% -- versus 2% in April. Independent and Democratic voter preferences have also remained about the same.

2012: Barack Obama vs. Generic Republican -- Based on Registered Voters

	All registered voters	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
	%	%	%	%
May 5-8, 2011				
Obama	43	5	37	84
Republican candidate	40	84	37	4
Obama lead/deficit	+3	-79	0	+80
April 20-23, 2011				
Obama	41	2	34	85
Republican candidate	41	86	36	5
Obama lead/deficit	0	-84	-2	+80

Based on stand-alone Gallup polls

GALLUP

Bottom Line

Americans' higher approval of Obama after the mission against bin Laden appears largely detached from their willingness to support him for re-election in 2012. The president's approval rating rose much more over the past week among Republicans than among independents and Democrats -- perhaps reflecting Republicans' greater support for killing the al Qaeda leader -- but that has convinced few in this largely conservative voting bloc to switch sides in the 2012 general election. A rally event that drives up support for Obama among independent rather than Republican voters would seem more likely to give Obama an electoral dividend.

Survey Methods

The latest generic presidential ballot results come from a May 5-8, 2011, Gallup poll, based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,018 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the sample of 886 registered voters, 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. The sample included a minimum quota of 240 cell phone respondents and 360 landline respondents, 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 were chosen within each household on the basis of the youngest male or oldest female at home.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, 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.

Obama's latest weekly average approval rating is based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking May 2-8, 2011, with a random sample of 3,572 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 ±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 sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone-only 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 phone 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.

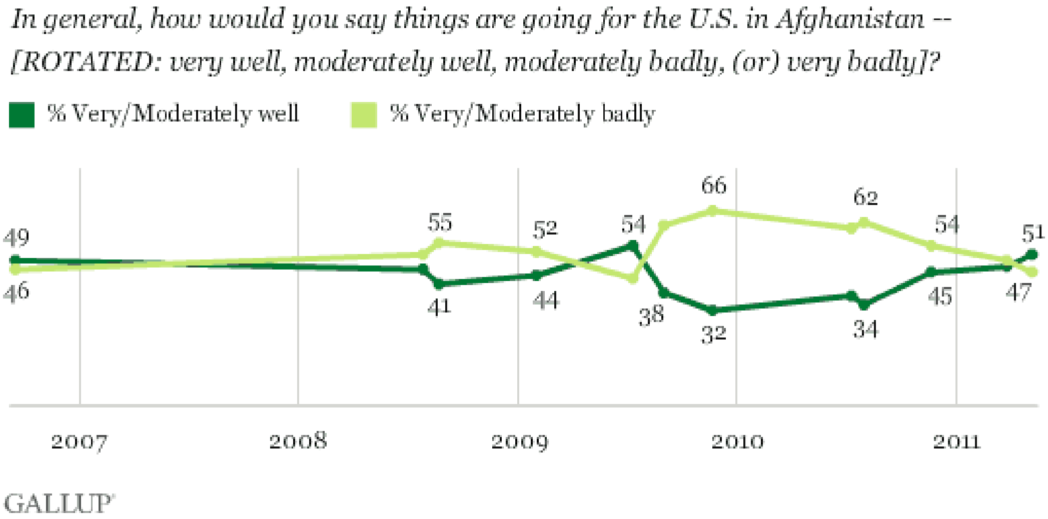
Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147500/Obama-Approval-Bump-Hasnt-Transferred-2012-Prospects.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

171-12. Americans More Positive on Afghanistan After Bin Laden Death

Slim majority now say things are going well for the U.S. there

May 11, 2011

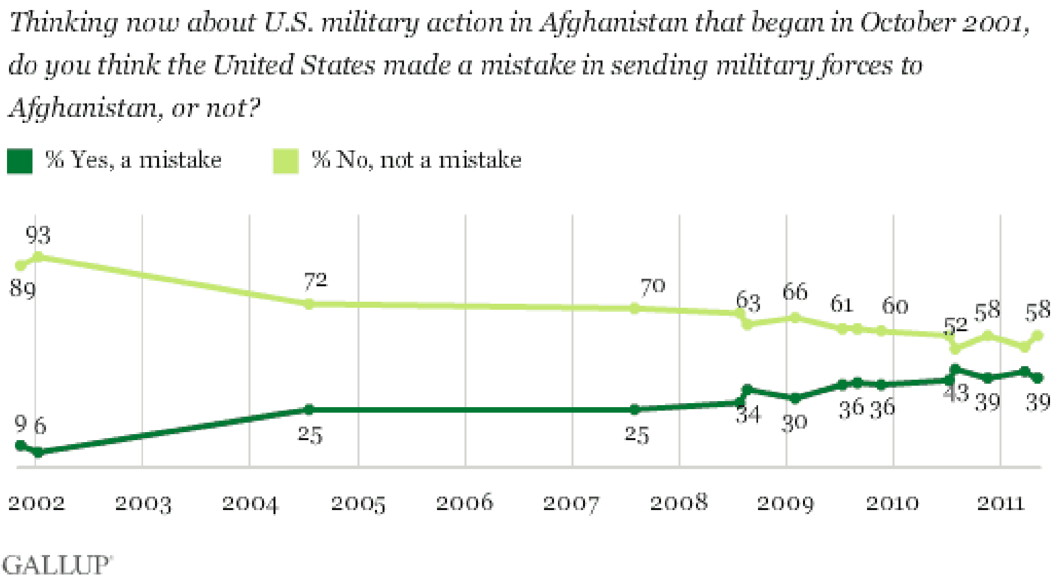
PRINCETON, NJ -- After the death of Osama bin Laden, a slim majority of Americans now say things are going well for the United States in Afghanistan, a four-percentage-point increase from late March. This marks the first time in nearly two years that the majority has held this view, and only the second time since Gallup began tracking these opinions on the war in 2006.



Republicans and Democrats view U.S. progress similarly, with 55% of each group saying things are going well for the United States in Afghanistan in the May 5-8 *USA Today*/Gallup poll. That marks a shift from March, when Republicans were much more positive. Both groups are more positive than independents, 45% of whom think things are going well for the U.S.

In addition to their somewhat more positive overall assessment of U.S. progress in the war, Americans also are a bit more supportive of the war effort in general than they were before bin Laden's death. Now, 58% say the United States did not make a mistake in sending troops to Afghanistan, up from 53% in late March.

But bin Laden's demise has not dramatically transformed Americans' support for the war, which more broadly remains on the lower end of what Gallup has measured since the war began in 2001.



Republicans are more supportive of the war effort in general. Currently, 69% of Republicans, 54% of independents, and 52% of Democrats say the United States did not make a mistake in sending troops to Afghanistan.

Majority Believes U.S. Has Accomplished Its Mission in Afghanistan

Although a majority says the war was not a mistake, the public seems more inclined to end it rather than keep it going. Gallup finds 59% of Americans saying the U.S. "has accomplished its mission" and "should bring its troops home," while 36% say the U.S. "still has important work to do in Afghanistan and should maintain its troops there."

Republicans are divided in their views of whether the U.S. has fulfilled its mission in Afghanistan or still has work to do. Independents and Democrats, by 2-to-1 margins, believe the U.S. has finished its work in Afghanistan and should bring its troops home.

Which comes closer to your view -- [ROTATED: the U.S. has accomplished its mission in Afghanistan and should bring its troops home, (or) the U.S. still has important work to do in Afghanistan and should maintain its troops there]?

	% Accomplished mission	% Has important work to do
All Americans	59	36
Republicans	47	47
Independents	62	31
Democrats	66	33

USA Today/Gallup, May 5-8, 2011

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The same question was asked the night after bin Laden's death, in a survey focused largely on that event rather than the war in Afghanistan more broadly. That poll showed Americans leaning more toward saying the U.S. still has important work to do in Afghanistan. It is not clear whether that result was affected by the euphoria surrounding bin Laden's capture, with the current poll perhaps showing that Americans have returned to a more sober assessment of the war. Americans have generally supported proposals calling for removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan since President Obama announced his policy on the war in late 2009.

Bin Laden's Death One of the Most Closely Followed News Events

With details of the U.S. military operation that resulted in bin Laden's death still coming out, Gallup asked Americans how closely they are following the news about the event. Forty-two percent say they are following it very closely and another 41% somewhat closely.

The combined 83% who are following the story at least somewhat closely ranks in the top 15 out of 206 news stories for which Gallup has used this measure since 1991.

Highest Percentage Who Are Following News Events, Gallup Polls, 1991-2011

Event	Dates of polling	% Following
Terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.	Sep 14-15, 2001	97
Hurricane Katrina and subsequent flooding of New Orleans	Sep 8-11, 2005	96
War between U.S. and Iraq	Mar 22-23, 2003	95
The sniper shootings in and around Washington, D.C.	Oct 21-22, 2002	91
The tsunami that struck parts of Asia	Jan 3-5, 2005	89
The situation with Iraq	Jan 3-5, 2003	89
U.N. inspections for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq	Jan 23-25, 2003	88
News about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico	May 24-25, 2010	87
Situation surrounding Tuesday's presidential election	Nov 11-12, 2000	87
Death of Princess Diana	Sep 6-7, 1997	85
Beginning of ground war in Iraq	Feb 24, 1991	84
Situation in Kosovo	Apr 13-14, 1999	84
News about Barack Obama's presidential transition	Nov 13-16, 2008	83
Clinton-Lewinsky matter	Aug 21-23, 1998	83
U.S. military finding and killing Osama bin Laden	May 5-8, 2011	83

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Implications

Bin Laden's death captured Americans' attention, but has not led to a dramatically different evaluation of the war in Afghanistan. Americans are now more positive about U.S. progress than they have been in some time and support the war at higher levels than before bin Laden's death. At the same time, most Americans seem ready to end U.S. military operations in Afghanistan.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 5-8, 2011, with a random sample of 1,018 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-only 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 phone 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.

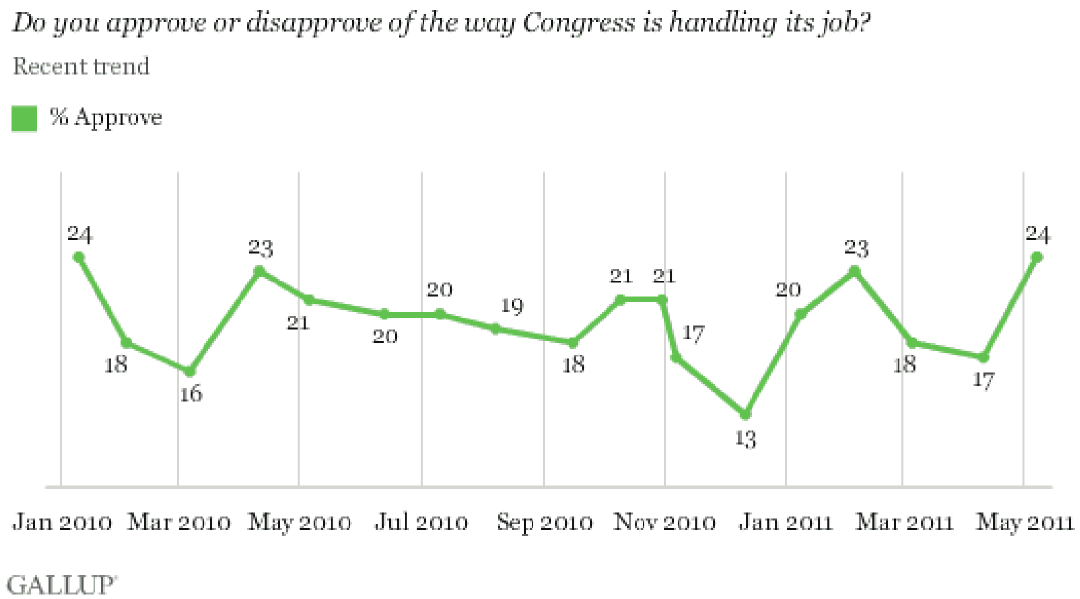
Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147488/Americans-Positive-Afghanistan-Bin-Laden-Death.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

171-13. Approval of Congress, U.S. Satisfaction Rally on Bin Laden Death

Approval of Congress and U.S. satisfaction up the most among Republicans

May 12, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Americans' approval of Congress increased to 24% after the death of Osama bin Laden, up from 17% in April, and the highest it has been since January 2010 by one percentage point.



The spike in congressional approval in the May 5-8 Gallup poll most likely reflects a halo effect fromAmericans' overwhelming approval of the killing of Osama bin Laden. In the days since the U.S. military action that resulted in bin Laden's death, Americans' approval of President Obama has also increased.

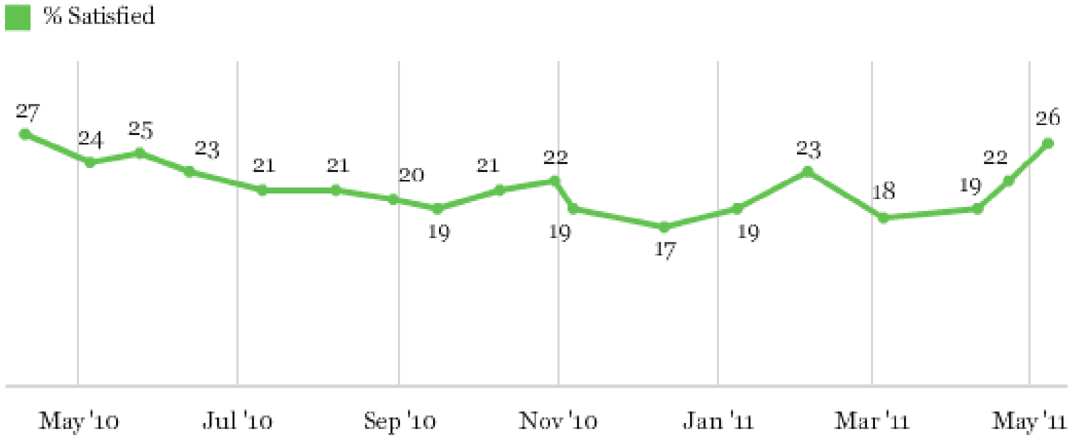
Although improved, the current 24% approval of Congress is still lower than Gallup's historical average of 34%. It is unclear how long the bounce -- which doesn't come close to matching the rally of 42 points after the Sept. 11 attacks -- will last. Congressional approval hasn't reached the 50% mark since June 2003.

Bin Laden Halo Effect Extends to U.S. Satisfaction, but to Lesser Degree

Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the United States increased to 26% in the same May 5-8 poll, from 22% in April -- a smaller increase than the rise in congressional and presidential job approval. The current level of satisfaction, however, is the highest in a year.

Satisfaction With the Way Things Are Going in the United States

Recent trend



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Despite the uptick, satisfaction remains lower than Gallup's long-term average of 38%, measured since 1979. However, Americans' positivity about the direction of the country is much improved from the all-time low of 7% in October 2008.

Republicans Lead Rally in Congressional Approval, Satisfaction

Republicans' approval of Congress is up eight points after the death of bin Laden, similar to the seven-point increase among independents. Democrats' approval is up five points. There is now a three-point gap between Democrats' (26%) and Republicans' (23%) approval, slightly narrower than the six-point gap before bin Laden's death.

Similarly, Republicans' satisfaction with the direction of the country went up the most after bin Laden's death, increasing by seven points. Independents' satisfaction went up four points, and Democrats' satisfaction remained completely unchanged.

Congress Approval by Party, Before and After Bin Laden's Death

	Before bin Laden's death (Apr 7-11, 2011)	After bin Laden's death (May 5-8, 2011)	Change
	%	%	pct. pts.
Republicans	15	23	8
Independents	15	22	7
Democrats	21	26	5

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U.S. Satisfaction by Party, Before and After Bin Laden's Death

	Before bin Laden's death (Apr 20-23, 2011)	After bin Laden's death (May 5-8, 2011)	Change
	%	%	pct. pts.
Republicans	5	12	7
Independents	20	24	4
Democrats	40	40	0

GALLUP

Gallup also finds that Obama's approval ratings are up the most among Republicans.

Bottom Line

Congress, the president, U.S. satisfaction -- and even economic confidence -- have enjoyed a boost in positivity from the American public after bin Laden's death, but it remains to be seen how long this will last. One public opinion challenge has already rocketed to the fore, with Congress and President Obama attempting to make a deal to cut federal spending before the U.S. government reaches its debt limit on Monday. Lawmakers' ability to find not just a consensus solution on the budget, but also one that appeases most Americans, may play a role in whether the recent approval spikes last.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 5-8, 2011, with a random sample of 1,018 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones 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-only 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 phone 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/147506/Approval-Congress-Satisfaction-Rally-Bin-Laden-Death.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

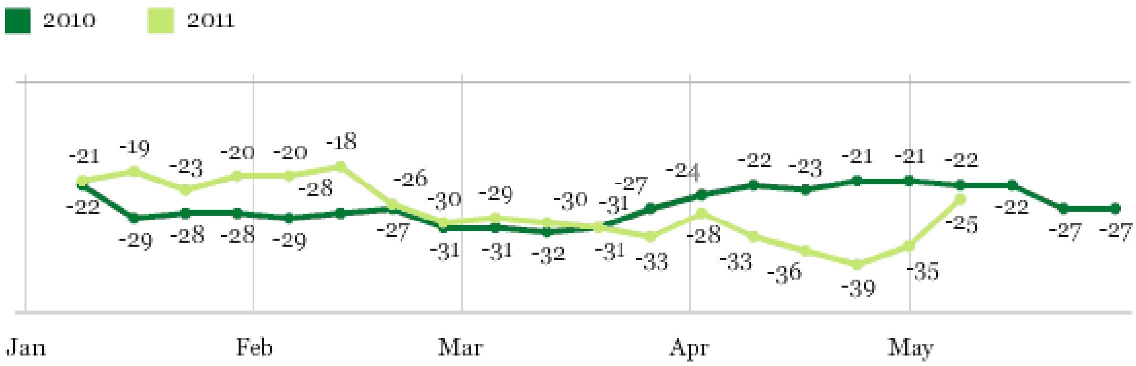
171-14. U.S. Economic Confidence Spikes on Bin Laden Death

Economic Confidence Index improves 10 points; 37% say economy is "getting better"

May 10, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Gallup's Economic Confidence Index improved 10 percentage points in the week after Osama bin Laden's death, May 2-8. This surge in confidence brought the Index up to -25, the highest weekly confidence level since mid-February and just three points shy of what it was during the same week in 2010. The question is whether this sharp improvement is a temporary "halo effect" or a key turning point in consumer optimism.

Economic Confidence Index by Week, 2010 and 2011



Note: 2011 data are for weeks ending Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27; March 6, 13, 20, and 27; April 3, 10, 17, and 24; and May 1 and 8. Parallel weeks in 2010 ended Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28; March 7, 14, 21, and 28; April 4, 11, 18, and 25; and May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Gallup Daily tracking

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Although economic confidence was at a 2011 weekly low point of -39 during the week ending April 24, it improved to -35 the next week, just prior to the announcement of bin Laden's death. The Index surged to -25 last week after the U.S. military operation that resulted in his death, coincident with an expected"rally effect" in President Obama's approval rating.

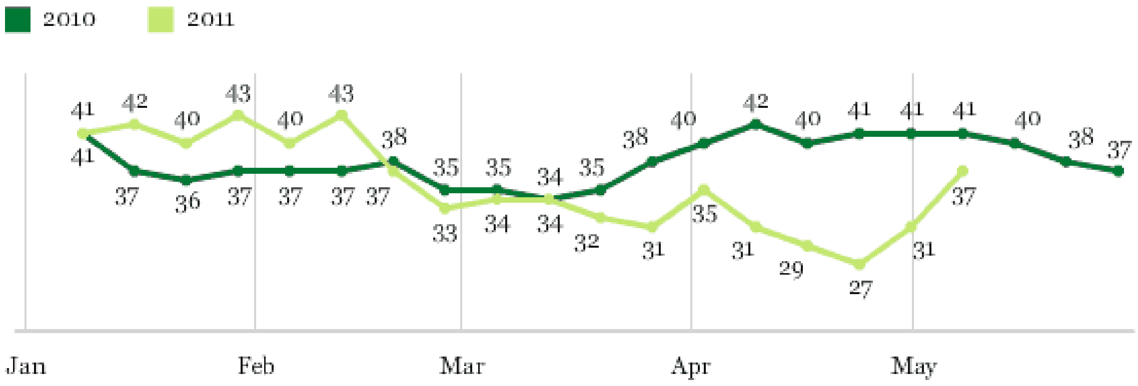
Gallup Daily tracking suggests that the six-point surge in Americans' approval of Obama may also have had a "halo effect" on consumers' economic perceptions last week, meaning that jubilation and positivity about this international "rally event" carried over to other consumer perceptions. Still, the precise extent to which the U.S. killing of bin Laden affected Americans' current confidence in the economy is unknown.

Gallup's Economic Confidence Index consists of two measures: one involving Americans' views about whether the U.S. economy is "getting better" or "getting worse" and Americans' ratings of current economic conditions as "excellent," "good," "only fair," or "poor." Both measures showed substantial improvement last week.

Optimism About Economic Outlook Surges in Response to Bin Laden's Death

Americans' optimism about the economy rose last week, with 37% saying it is "getting better" -- up six points from the previous week. This is the highest level since mid-February and within four points of where such optimism stood during the comparable week in 2010.

Percentage Saying Economic Conditions Are "Getting Better" by Week, 2010 and 2011



Note: 2011 data are for weeks ending Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27; March 6, 13, 20, and 27; April 3, 10, 17, and 24; and May 1 and 8. Parallel weeks in 2010 ended Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28; March 7, 14, 21, and 28; April 4, 11, 18, and 25; and May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

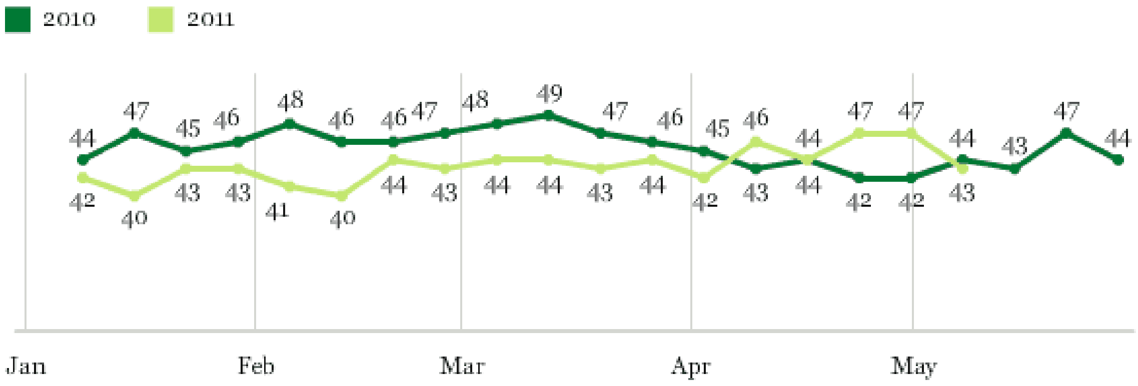
Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

"Poor" Ratings Tumble

The percentage of Americans rating current economic conditions "poor" improved to 43% during the week ending May 8 -- down four points from the previous week, and the lowest level of negativity on this measure in just over a month. The measure shows little change from the 44% "poor" rating of the same week a year ago.

Percentage Saying Current Economic Conditions Are "Poor" by Week, 2010 and 2011



Note: 2011 data are for weeks ending Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27; March 6, 13, 20, and 27; April 3, 10, 17, and 24; and May 1 and 8. Parallel weeks in 2010 ended Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28; March 7, 14, 21, and 28; April 4, 11, 18, and 25; and May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

Implications

Economic confidence surged last week coincident with Americans' positive reaction to bin Laden's death, but other factors likely also contributed. For example, the government reported that the economy created a larger-than-expected 244,000 jobs in April, consistent with Gallup's Job Creation Index, despite an increase in the U.S. unemployment rate to 9.0%. What was generally perceived to be a good jobs report combined with Mother's Day celebrations probably added to Americans' positivity at the end of the week.

The drop in commodity prices including oil last week is more of a stretch in terms of driving confidence. Lower commodity prices are good news for consumers, although most Americans will not see the benefits until they see lower prices at the retail counter. Similarly, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke held the Fed's first-ever news conference the previous week, telling Americans the Fed plans to continue providing liquidity for the economy but not adding new liquidity in the form of another round of so-called quantitative easing. While this seemed to be a positive for Wall Street, it's not clear the Fed's efforts had much of a direct effect on U.S. consumers.

The surge in economic confidence, like that in Obama's approval rating, has the potential to fade, as do the good feelings surrounding bin Laden's death as Americans get back to focusing on their day-to-day lives. On the other hand, this major event does offer the opportunity for policymakers to create some positive economic momentum by building on today's increased economic confidence.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking during the week ending May 8, 2011 with 3,468 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 weekly sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±3 percentage point. 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 sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone-only 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 phone 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.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147473/Economic-Confidence-Spikes-Bin-Laden-Death.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA

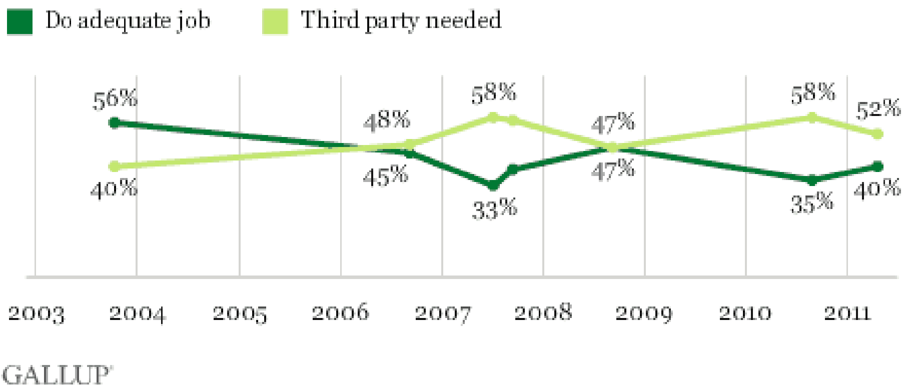
171-15. Support for Third U.S. Party Dips, but Is Still Majority View

Fifty-two percent believe a third political party is needed

May 9, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Fifty-two percent of Americans believe the Republican and Democratic parties do such a poor job of representing the people that a third party is needed. Forty percent believe they do an adequate job. The percentage calling for a third party is down from August, when it tied its high of 58%.

In your view, do the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?



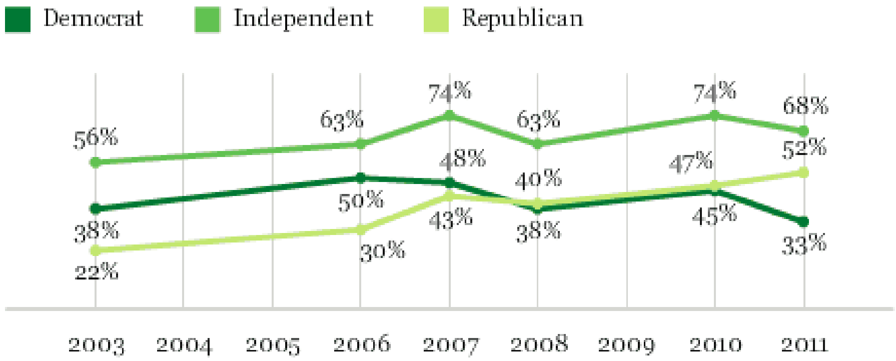
Support for a third party has fluctuated since October 2003, when Gallup first asked this question. The majority of Americans thought a third party was *not* needed at that time. Since then, Americans have generally favored a third party, but twice there has been an even division of opinion -- both of which occurred in the fall of an election year.

Majority of Republicans Back Third Party for First Time

Gallup has always found political independents to be most desirous of a third party, and 68% currently are. But right now there is also a significant party gap, with 52% of Republicans favoring a third party, compared with 33% of Democrats.

This is the first time Gallup finds a significantly higher percentage of Republicans than Democrats in favor of a third party. During much of President Bush's term, the opposite was true, with Democrats more likely to favor the formation of a third party. That gap narrowed in 2007, after the Democrats' victories in the 2006 midterms, and there has been a minimal difference between the two parties until the current poll.

Support for a Third Major Political Party, by Political Party Affiliation



Note: 2007 data represent average of two polls

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Tea Party Supporters More in Favor of Third Party

The increase in Republican support for a third party since 2008 could be an outgrowth of the Tea Party movement, which is closely aligned with the GOP. The poll, which also assessed Americans' orientation toward the movement, finds 60% of those who identify themselves as Tea Party supporters in favor of a third party, compared with 44% of Tea Party opponents. The opinions of those who say they are neither supporters nor opponents fall in between those of the two groups.

Support for a Third Major Political Party, by Orientation to the Tea Party Movement

	Supporter of Tea Party	Opponent of Tea Party	Neither
Third party needed	60%	44%	51%
Two parties adequate	32%	47%	43%

USA Today/Gallup, April 20-23, 2011

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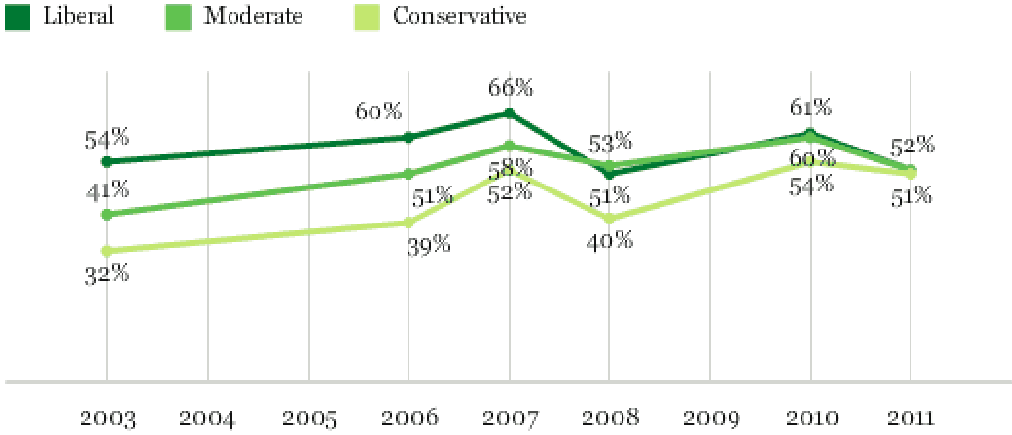
Gallup currently finds essentially no differences in support for a third party by political ideology, with 51% of conservatives, 52% of moderates, and 52% of liberals in favor. Over time, the ideological groups' positions have converged, with conservatives becoming more supportive.

Support for a Third Major Political Party, by Political Ideology



Note: 2007 data represent average of two polls

GALLUP

Implications

A slim majority of Americans favor a third political party, fewer than did so late last summer. Americans' views of the need for a third party have waxed and waned over the years, but have never been higher than 58%.

Though more Americans identify as political independents than as either Republicans or Democrats, the likelihood that a third party will emerge is not clear, because many independents generally lean to one party or the other, and those who do have leanings tend to have attitudes similar to those of Democratic or Republican identifiers. Third parties also face institutional challenges to gaining power in the United States, in terms of the way Americans elect presidents and members of Congress, awarding electoral votes or seats to the party winning the most votes in a state or district. Historically, when third parties have emerged in U.S. politics, they have generally not been able to sustain any success they have had for more than an election or two.

At this point, it is unclear whether a major third-party candidate will contest the 2012 election against Barack Obama and the Republican nominee. Given that a majority of Americans see a need for a third party, and that their level of satisfaction with the way things are going in the country is fairly low, it would not be surprising if a third-party candidate emerged. Whether that candidate would be a major factor is unclear, although, based on history, it is unlikely.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 20-23, 2011, with a random sample of 1,013 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-only 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 phone 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/147461/Support-Third-Party-Dips-Majority-View.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

171-16. Romney's GOP Supporters Tilt Upscale; Palin's, Downscale

Huckabee's support leans to the right politically, to the South geographically

May 9, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Republican college degree holders are more likely than those without a degree to support Mitt Romney for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012, 21% vs. 13%. Similarly, Romney's support climbs from 9% of Republicans earning less than $24,000 annually to 21% of those earning $90,000 or more. The reverse is true for Sarah Palin, who is favored by nearly twice as many Republicans without a college degree as those with one, 16% vs. 9%, and her support decreases by income from 22% among the lowest income group to 7% among the highest.

2012 GOP Presidential Trial Heat -- Preferred Candidate by Education, Income

Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else.

	College grad.	Not college grad.	Less than $24,000	$24,000-$59,000	$60,000-$89,999	$90,000 and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
M. Huckabee	17	19	16	22	17	19
M. Romney	21	13	9	14	19	21
S. Palin	9	16	22	16	11	7
N. Gingrich	9	8	7	9	8	9
R. Paul	6	7	7	7	7	7
M. Bachmann	4	4	7	4	4	3
M. Daniels	5	3	4	2	3	5
T. Pawlenty	4	2	2	2	3	4
R. Santorum	2	2	2	2	3	2
J. Huntsman	2	1	1	1	1	1
G. Johnson	*	1	1	1	1	*

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents; combined data from Gallup Daily tracking Feb. 18-20, March 18-22, and April 15-20, 2011

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These findings are based on the 2012 Republican primary preferences of 3,304 Republicans (including independents who lean Republican) across three national Gallup surveys conducted in February, March, and April as part of Gallup Daily tracking. The combined data do not include support for Donald Trump, given that he was not included in Gallup's trial heat surveys in February or March. Trump tied Huckabee for first with 16% support in the April poll, but for this analysis, that 16% is reapportioned to the candidates who were his voters' second choice.

Huckabee, who has either ranked first or tied for first in all three surveys since February, does not spark strong socioeconomic differences in Republicans' support, nor do Newt Gingrich or Ron Paul.

Support for other candidates included in Gallup polling, including Michele Bachmann, Mitch Daniels, and Tim Pawlenty, is in the low single digits, a level at which demographic distinctions are less meaningful.

Huckabee's Support Tilts to the Right, Politically; to the South, Geographically

At the same time that Huckabee receives similar levels of support from Republicans of different education and income levels, he does decidedly better among Republicans in the South (24%) and Midwest (20%) than among those in the East (13%) and West (14%). He also does much better among conservative than among liberal or moderate Republicans, 21% vs. 14%.

By contrast, Romney fares best in the East (20%) and West (20%) -- topping Huckabee in these regions. Liberal/Moderate and conservative Republicans support him to similar degrees.

2012 GOP Presidential Trial Heat -- Preferred Candidate by Ideology, Region

Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else.

	Conserv-ative	Liberal/ Moderate	East	Midwest	South	West
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mike Huckabee	21	14	13	20	24	14
Mitt Romney	15	17	20	12	12	20
Sarah Palin	13	15	16	12	14	12
Newt Gingrich	10	5	7	8	10	9
Ron Paul	6	6	5	5	7	8
Michele Bachmann	5	4	4	6	4	4
Mitch Daniels	3	3	1	8	3	2
Tim Pawlenty	3	2	3	4	2	3
Rick Santorum	2	2	8	1	1	1
Jon Huntsman	1	2	1	1	1	3
Gary Johnson	1	2	1	1	1	1

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents; combined data from Gallup Daily tracking Feb. 18-20, March 18-22, and April 15-20, 2011

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Despite her strong Tea Party connections, Palin receives as much support from liberal/moderate Republicans as she does from conservative Republicans, 15% vs. 13%. Also, there is little differentiation in preferences for her by region, ranging from 12% in the West and Midwest to 14% in the South and 16% in the East.

Gingrich does twice as well with conservatives as with liberals and moderates, 10% vs. 5%. However, he is preferred by similar percentages of Republicans across regions, from 7% to 10%.

None of these upper-tier contenders for the nomination has formally announced his or her candidacy for the 2012 nomination, and none appeared in the first presidential debate, co-hosted last week by the South Carolina Republican Party and Fox News. Among those who did participate, Paul earns as much support from conservative Republicans as from moderate/liberal Republicans, at 6%, and hovers around this level in each region.

Additionally, when one looks at four broad age groups within the ranks of Republicans and Republican leaners, both Romney and Gingrich have greater support among older than younger Republicans. Conversely, Paul does best among younger Republicans, his support dwindling from 9% of 18- to 29-year-olds to 3% of those 65 and older.

The preferences of Republican men and women are generally similar; however, Gingrich receives slightly higher support from men than from women, 11% vs. 7%.

2012 GOP Presidential Trial Heat -- Preferred Candidate by Gender, Age

Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else.

	Men	Women	18 to 29	30 to 49	50 to 64	65 and older
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mike Huckabee	18	19	19	19	17	19
Mitt Romney	16	16	9	14	17	22
Sarah Palin	12	15	14	14	14	11
Newt Gingrich	11	7	6	7	10	12
Ron Paul	8	5	9	8	5	3
Michele Bachmann	4	5	6	4	5	3
Mitch Daniels	5	2	5	4	3	2
Tim Pawlenty	3	2	1	2	3	4
Rick Santorum	2	2	3	2	2	2
Jon Huntsman	1	2	3	2	1	1
Gary Johnson	1	1	2	1	1	1

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents; combined data from Gallup Daily tracking Feb. 18-20, March 18-22, and April 15-20, 2011

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Bottom Line

As potential Republican candidates attempt to build national support while simultaneously focusing on the early primary states, they need to appeal to different elements within the party -- men and women, young and old, wealthy and not wealthy, Easterners and Southerners, and more.

None of the leading candidates at this stage is without some limitation in terms of earning widespread support. While Huckabee's support crosses socioeconomic lines, it is heavily concentrated among conservatives and in the South and Midwest. Romney, while competitive among the ideological groups, does not thus far enjoy strong support among working-class Republicans; rather, he appeals particularly to upscale Republicans. Palin has the opposite pattern, appealing to middle to lower socioeconomic households far more than upper-income and more educated households. At the same time, her appeal is fairly uniform across regions and by ideology.

Too few Republicans currently support Gingrich, Paul, Bachmann, Pawlenty, and others for these demographic distinctions to yet matter. However, as the candidates work to become better known, their respective images may skew toward one group or region or another. Those patterns will become apparent in Gallup's ongoing tracking of Republican preferences.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking April 15-20, March 18-22, and Feb. 18-20, 2011, with a random sample of at least 1,000 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, at each of these time periods.

For results based on the total aggregate sample of 3,304 Republicans, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±2 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-only 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 phone 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/147452/Romney-GOP-Supporters-Tilt-Upscale-Palin-Downscale.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

171-17. Cain Now Second to Christie As Top Choice Of GOP Primary Voters

Only 9% choose Romney, but 31% believe he will be nominee

UTICA, NY - Herman Cain trails only Chris Christie as the top choice among Republican primary voters in the race for the 2012 Presidential nomination. Mitt Romney ranks fourth, but voters see him as the most likely nominee by a wide margin over the rest of a 13-person field.

One-half of GOP voters say they would never vote for Donald Trump, and more than 30% say they would never vote for Newt Gingrich, Sarah Palin, Mike Huckabee or Ron Paul.

These results are from an IBOPE Zogby interactive poll of 1,377 Republican primary voters conducted from May 6-9.

Cain, a businessman and talk show host, seems to have impressed some Republican voters with his performance at last week's South Carolina Republican presidential debate. He receives 14% when GOP voters are asked whom they would vote for if the primary were held today. That places him second to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has said he will not run, but has been the frontrunner in three previous IBOPE Zogby interactive polls (November 2010 and January and March 2011.)

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

Candidate	**GOP Voters**
Chris Christie	17%

Herman Cain	14%
Ron Paul	10%
Mitt Romney	9%
Newt Gingrich	7%
Sarah Palin	4%
Tim Pawlenty	4%
Mike Huckabee	4%
Donald Trump	4%
Mitch Daniels	4%
Michele Bachman	2%
Rick Santorum	2%
Gary Johnson	1%
None of these	9%
Not sure	9%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

When asked who they thought would get the nomination, 31% of GOP voters say Romney. Tim Pawlenty is next at 8%, and 37% are not sure.

Which of the following candidates would you never vote for?

Candidate	**GOP Voters**
Donald Trump	50%
Newt Gingrich	36%
Sarah Palin	36%
Mike Huckabee	34%
Ron Paul	32%
Mitt Romney	27%
Michele Bachman	27%
Gary Johnson	26%
Rick Santorum	25%
Herman Cain	17%
Tim Pawlenty	16%
Mitch Daniels	14%
Chris Christie	13%
None of these	12%
Not sure	10%

IBOPE Zogby International conducted an online survey of 1,377 likely Republican primary voters. 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 party, age, race, religion, and gender to more accurately reflect the population. The margin of error is +/- 2.7 percentage points.

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/2011/05/10/ibope-zogby-poll-cain-now-second-christie-top-choice-gop-primary-voters-/

171-18. Obama Approval Continues Rise to 48%; His Highest So Far This Year

41% say Obama deserves re-election

UTICA, NY - President Barack Obama continues to see a rise in his job approval rating from likely voters after the successful mission that killed Osama bin Laden, as he hit the highest mark so far this year in an IBOPE Zogby interactive poll, 48%.

The 48% job approval is a seven-point increase from April 25 and an additional two points more than the 46% he received on May 5 in our first poll after bin Laden's death.

However, the percentage of voters who say Obama deserves re-election did not increase from May 5. It was 42% then, and is 41% now. However, this latest result is four points higher than the April 25 poll where 37% said Obama deserves re-election.

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

Obama Job Performance	**May 9**	**May 5**	**Apr. 25**	**Apr. 15**	**Apr. 7**	**Apr. 4**	**Mar. 28**	**Mar. 21**	**Mar. 8**	**Mar. 4**	**Feb. 24**	**Feb. 21**
Approve	48%	46%	41%	43%	42%	43%	46%	45%	47%	44%	46%	45%
Disapprove	52%	54%	59%	57%	57%	56%	54%	55%	52%	55%	53%	55%
Not sure	0%	<1	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%

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

Do you think President Obama deserves to be re-elected or do you think it is time for someone new?

Response	**May 9**	**May 5**	**April 25**
Obama deserves to be re-elected	41%	42%	37%
It's time for someone new	50	53	57

	%	%	%
Not sure	10 %	6 %	6%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

The improvements in the President's approval rating before and after the mission against bin Laden are due to increases among Democrats and independents. Approval among Democrats increased from 77% on April 25 to 87% now. Among independents, Obama's job approval went from 38% on April 25 to 42% now. His approval among Republicans is 7% in both polls.

Obama's highest job approval in an IBOPE Zogby interactive poll was 53% on Aug. 5, 2009. His lowest was 39% on two different polls taken on Nov. 22 and Dec. 14, 2010.

Other poll findings include:

- 30% believe the nation is headed in the right direction and 57% choose wrong direction.
- 19% approve of the job Congress is doing.
- 33% approve of the job Congressional Democrats are doing and 29% approve of Congressional Republicans.

The IBOPE Zogby interactive poll of 2,118 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.1%. 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/2011/05/09/ibope-zogby-poll-obama-approval-continues-rise-48-his-highest-so-far-year-/

171-19. Post Bin Laden Death, President Obama's Job Rating Rises 8 points

Highest rating for President Obama since September, 2009

NEW YORK , N.Y. - May 9, 2011 - With the news that the most wanted man in America had been killed by Navy Seals, President Obama had one reason to breathe a sigh of relief last week. Now, he has another as Americans seemed to rally around not only him but also feel better about the state of the country. Currently, just under half (46%) of U.S. adults give President Obama positive ratings on the overall job he is doing, a rise of eight points from last month when only 38% gave him positive marks. Just over half (54%) give the President negative ratings, down from 62% who did so last month. This is also the highest rating for the President since September of 2009 when almost half (49%) of Americans gave him positive ratings.

These are some of the results of ***The Harris Poll*** of 2,104 adults surveyed online between May 4 and 6, 2011 by **Harris Interactive**.

Democrats and Independents contribute the most to this rise. Over three-quarters of Democrats (77%) now give President Obama positive marks for his overall job approval, up from seven in ten (69%) last month. Among Independents, almost two in five (38%) give the President positive ratings up from three in ten (31%) in April. There is even a small rise among Republicans - in April, just 9% gave the President positive ratings; now, 12% do.

Congress also sees a small rise in their job ratings. Currently, just over one in ten Americans (13%) give the overall job Congress is doing positive ratings, up five points from last month when just 8% gave them positive marks. However, almost nine in ten (87%) still give them negative ratings.

The largest positive jump is in how the country overall is doing. In April, just one-quarter of Americans (26%) thought the country was heading in the right direction while 74% thought it was going off on the wrong track. Now, two in five U.S. adults (39%) say it is going in the right direction while 61% believe it is on the wrong track - a jump of 12 points.

So What?

The news from the White House late on Sunday, May 1st has caused many Americans to feel more positive about life in general and the way this country is going. This, in turn, translates into positive feelings about the President and even, albeit to a lesser extent, Congress. The question is does this hold or is it a temporary rise until something brings it back down. If the election were held today, the country is split on President Obama's re-election as 46% of Americans would be likely to vote for him and 47% would not be likely to do so. More than his approval ratings, these are the numbers the White House and re-election committee are watching closely.

TABLE 1

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING - TREND

"How would you rate the overall job President Barack Obama is doing?"

Base: All adults

	2009								
	Mar	**April**	**May**	**June**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
POSITIVE	**55**	**58**	**59**	**54**	**51**	**49**	**45**	**43**	**41**
Excellent	17	18	17	14	11	11	10	9	7
Pretty good	38	40	42	39	39	38	35	33	33
NEGATIVE	**45**	**42**	**41**	**46**	**49**	**51**	**55**	**57**	**59**
Only fair	27	26	25	25	25	25	27	29	30
Poor	18	15	16	21	24	26	28	29	30

	2010										**2011**				
	Jan	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**Aug**	**Sept**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**April**	**May**

	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
POSITIVE	**40**	**41**	**41**	**42**	**39**	**40**	**38**	**37**	**38**	**36**	**44**	**42**	**39**	**38**	**46**
Excellent	9	9	9	10	6	9	9	8	8	7	10	11	8	7	12
Pretty good	31	32	31	32	33	31	29	29	30	28	34	32	31	31	34
NEGATIVE	**60**	**59**	**59**	**58**	**61**	**60**	**62**	**63**	**62**	**64**	**56**	**58**	**61**	**62**	**54**
Only fair	30	28	26	28	29	26	28	30	29	31	28	29	29	27	26
Poor	30	31	33	30	32	34	34	33	33	34	29	29	32	35	28

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

TABLE 2
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING - BY PARTY
"How would you rate the overall job President Barack Obama is doing?"
Base: All adults

	Total	Political Party					
		Republican		**Democrat**		**Independent**	
		April	May	April	May	April	May
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
POSITIVE	**46**	**9**	**12**	**69**	**77**	**31**	**38**
Excellent	12	2	1	14	23	4	8
Pretty good	34	7	11	55	54	27	30
NEGATIVE	**54**	**91**	**88**	**31**	**22**	**69**	**62**
Only fair	26	25	30	24	16	29	34
Poor	28	66	58	7	6	40	28

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

TABLE 3
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING - BY REGION, EDUCATION & GENDER
"How would you rate the overall job President Barack Obama is doing?"
Base: All adults

	Total	Region				Education			Gender	
		East	Midwest	South	West	H.S. or less	Some college	College grad+	Men	Women
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
POSITIVE	**46**	**47**	**47**	**44**	**49**	**43**	**44**	**54**	**44**	**48**
Excellent	12	12	11	11	14	11	10	14	14	9
Pretty good	34	35	36	33	35	32	34	40	30	39
NEGATIVE	**54**	**52**	**54**	**56**	**51**	**57**	**56**	**46**	**57**	**52**
Only fair	26	26	29	24	26	27	28	23	28	25
Poor	28	26	25	32	25	30	28	23	29	27

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

TABLE 4
CONGRESS' OVERALL JOB RATING
"How would you rate the overall job Congress is doing?"
Base: All adults

	Total	Political Party		
		Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
	%	%	%	%
POSITIVE	**13**	**7**	**18**	**11**
Excellent	1	-	3	1
Pretty good	12	7	15	10
NEGATIVE	**87**	**93**	**81**	**88**
Only fair	46	44	50	42
Poor	41	49	31	46

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

TABLE 5
CONGRESS' OVERALL JOB RATING - TREND
"How would you rate the overall job the Congress is doing?"

Base: All adults

	TREND	Positive*	Negative**
		%	%
2011	**May**	**13**	**87**
	April	8	92
	March	10	90
	February	14	86
	January	16	84
2010	December	11	89
	November	13	87
	October	11	89
	September	13	87
	August	15	85
	June	14	86
	May	15	85
	April	16	84
	March	10	90
	Jan.	16	84
2009	Dec.	17	83
	Oct.	16	84
	Sept.	19	81
	Aug.	22	78
	June	25	75
	March	29	71
2008	October	10	86
	August	18	77
	June	13	83
	February	20	76
2007	December	17	79
	October	20	77
	April	27	69
	Februar	33	62

	y		
2006	September	24	73
	May	18	80
	February	25	71
	January	25	72

*Positive = excellent or pretty good. **Negative = only fair or poor.
Note: Prior to March, 2009, this question was asked by telephone.

TABLE 7
VOTING FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA

"If the election for president were to be held today, how likely would you be to vote for the current president, Barack Obama?"

Base: All adults

	Total	**Political party**			**Political Philosophy**		
		Rep.	**Dem.**	**Ind.**	**Cons.**	**Mod.**	**Lib.**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Likely	**46**	**10**	**78**	**42**	**16**	**53**	**78**
Very likely	33	4	62	25	8	37	61
Somewhat likely	14	6	17	17	8	16	17
Unlikely	**47**	**87**	**18**	**50**	**80**	**39**	**16**
Somewhat unlikely	7	7	4	9	5	8	4
Very unlikely	40	79	14	41	75	30	12
Not at all sure	6	4	4	8	4	8	6

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

Methodology

This **Harris Poll** was conducted online within the United States between May 4 to 6, 2011 among 2,104 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

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

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

Source:http://www.harrisinteractive.com/NewsRoom/HarrisPolls/tabid/447/mid/1508/articleId/770/ctl/ReadCustom%20Default/Default.aspx

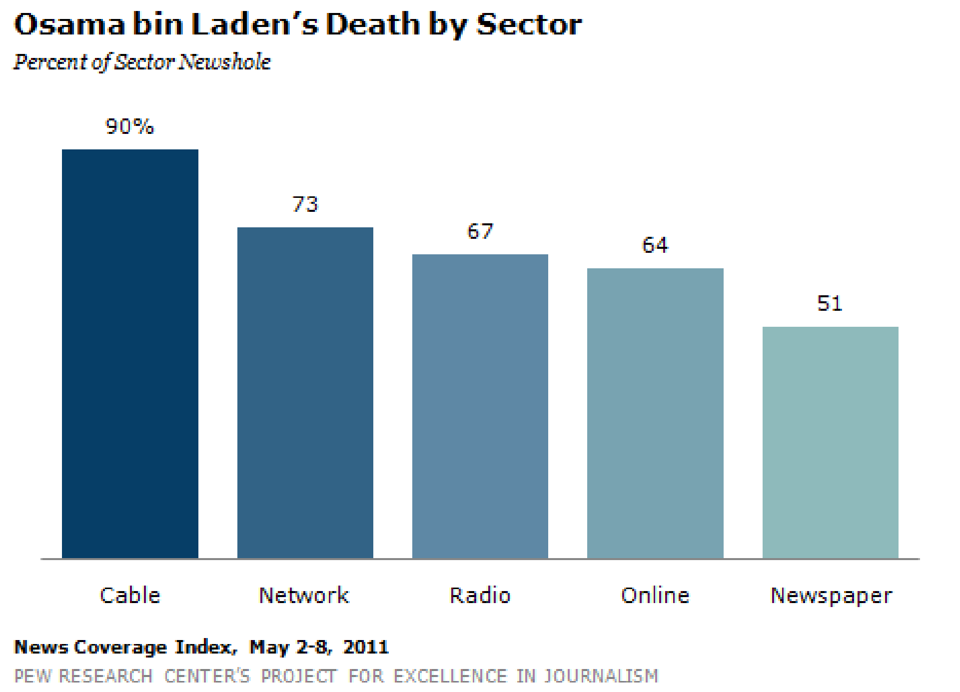
171-20. Osama bin Laden's Death Dominates the News

May 10, 2011

The death of Osama bin Laden drove unprecedented amounts of coverage last week, making it the biggest story in a single week since the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism began tracking mainstream media coverage in January 2007.

Coverage of the May 1 raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and its aftermath, accounted for 69% of the newshole during the week of May 2-8, according to PEJ's News Coverage Index. That edged out the media attention (just under 69%) devoted to the presidential campaign from Aug. 25-31, 2008, when Democrats nominated Barack Obama at their Denver convention and John McCain introduced Sarah Palin as his surprise running mate.

On cable television alone, the bin Laden story accounted for a staggering 90% of the airtime studied last week.



In another illustration of the enormity of coverage, bin Laden was a dominant newsmaker in 28% of last week's stories, the most media attention devoted to anyone since the week of Barack Obama's inauguration, Jan. 19-25, 2009.

Overall coverage of the story did taper somewhat throughout the week. On Monday, it accounted for 83% of the newshole. On Friday, it accounted for 40%. Yet even at its lowest level, the subject dominated all other news events.

The biggest bin Laden storyline from May 2-8 was piecing together the dramatic narrative of the mission to kill him, which accounted for 36% of all bin Laden coverage as new details -- and sometimes corrections to previous details -- continued to emerge throughout the week.

The second biggest storyline was coverage of the political implications of the event, at 15%. But that lagged well behind the narrative thread. Even on cable news, which focuses heavily on political and partisan issues, that thread accounted for only 13% of the airtime. The next biggest storyline was the role of Pakistan and its impact on U.S.-Pakistan relations, at 10%. Then came the implications for future terrorism and national security, at 7% of all bin Laden coverage.

Toward the end of the week, however, some aspects of the narrative began to change as the media explored new angles. On Friday, May 6, attention to the political implications of the killing accounted for over one-fifth of all bin Laden coverage. The numbers were about the same that day for Obama's visit to the World Trade Center as well as for coverage of the broader implications for the fight against terrorism. Those were some of the narratives that finally began to supplant the tick-tock recounting of events, which made up 16% of the coverage studied that day, down from 53% on Monday.

The impact and intensity of this story prompted PEJ to release a May 9 special report on the early coverage of the death of bin Laden, using computer technology by Crimson Hexagon that examined more than 120,000 news stories from May 1 through May 4. An updated analysis of Crimson Hexagon, incorporating the rest of the week, found little overall change in the mainstream media conversation about bin Laden. About a third of it focused on the events of the raid. Another quarter focused on the global reaction to the death. These and the other narratives comprising coverage of bin Laden's death largely tracked along with PEJ's NCI sample of outlets for the week.

All this wall-to-wall attention left little room for the media to focus on anything else last week. In fact, the No. 2 story, the U.S. economy, registered at 5% of the newshole, a whopping 64 percentage points behind the bin Laden saga.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1988/news-coverage-bin-laden-death

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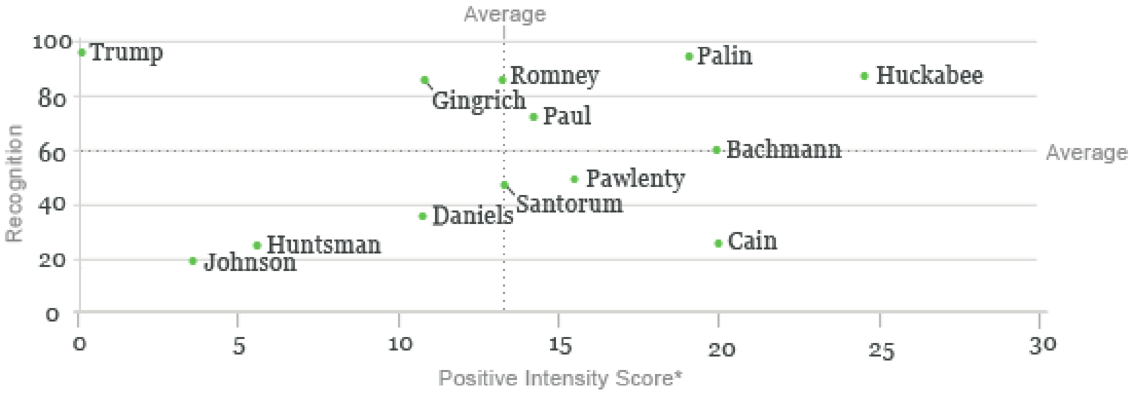
171-21. Gingrich Begins With High Recognition, Low Positive Intensity

Huckabee has strongest positive intensity; Trump, the lowest

May 10, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, expected to announce his presidential candidacy on Wednesday, is well-known among Republicans, but has a below-average -- and declining -- Positive Intensity Score. Mike Huckabee receives the highest Positive Intensity Score among Republicans nationwide who recognize him. Donald Trump, although universally recognized by Republicans, has the lowest Positive Intensity Score of any of the 13 candidates tested in Gallup's April 25-May 8 tracking.

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
April 25-May 8, 2011

GALLUP

These findings are based on interviews with more than 1,500 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Gallup tracks these candidates' images on a daily basis. Beginning May 10, results will be reported on Gallup.com's new Election 2012 site, with updates each Tuesday.

Gallup asks Republicans whether they recognize each potential candidate and, for each one they recognize, asks whether they have a strongly favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable opinion of that person. Gallup calculates a "Positive Intensity Score" for each person rated, based on the difference between strongly favorable and strongly unfavorable opinions among those who are familiar with him or her. This score provides an indication of the intensity of support among a candidate's base of followers at any given point in the campaign.

Gingrich is poised to announce his bid for the Republican presidential nomination on Wednesday with Twitter and Facebook posts, followed by an appearance on Fox News.

Gingrich is well-known among Republicans nationwide, with a current overall recognition score of 84%. On the other hand, he faces an image challenge among Republicans. The former speaker's Positive Intensity Score is 11, below this week's average score of 13 for all potential candidates measured, and down from his high of 19 recorded between March 14 and April 3.

More specifically, 16% of Republicans who recognize Gingrich have a strongly favorable opinion of him, while 5% have a strongly unfavorable opinion (complete data for each candidate are included in theGallup Election 2012 site).

Businessman and television personality **Trump,** recipient of much publicity over the last several weeks, has the unenviable distinction of receiving a Positive Intensity Score of 0, the lowest for any of the 13 candidates measured. Overall, 98% of Republicans recognize Trump, but among this group 12% say their opinion of Trump is strongly favorable, while 11% say it is strongly unfavorable. Rounding differences result in his overall net score of 0. Last week, when Trump's numbers were first reported, his Positive Intensity Score was 4, suggesting he lost ground after a week in which he was the butt of jokes that comedian Seth Meyers and President Barack Obama delivered at the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner. That same week, Trump's focus on Obama's birthplace was defused by the release of Obama's long-form birth certificate.

Former Arkansas **Gov. Huckabee** has a Positive Intensity Score of 24, and on this criterion is the strongest candidate in the field. Huckabee's intensity scores have been at the top of the list each week since Gallup began tracking them in late February. Eighty-five percent of Republicans recognize Huckabee. He continues to host a show on Fox News and has made no formal announcements concerning plans to run for his party's presidential nomination.

Two less well-known Republicans, Minnesota Rep. **Michele Bachmann** and Georgia businessman**Herman Cain**, are tied for second place behind Huckabee, each with a Positive Intensity Score of 20. Bachmann has gained steadily in recognition in recent weeks, up to 60% from her starting point of 52% in late February/early March. Cain, one of five less well-known Republicans to appear at last week's presidential debate in South Carolina, is recognized by only 24% of Republicans, but has consistently received relatively positive evaluations from those who do know him.

The other possible GOP candidates included in Gallup tracking vary widely in their name recognition, but none are clear standouts in terms of Positive Intensity.

In addition to Huckabee, Trump, and Gingrich, other possible candidates with recognition scores higher than 80% include **Sarah Palin** and **Mitt Romney**, both of whom were active in the 2008 presidential election campaign. Palin was the GOP's vice presidential candidate, and Romney a leading contender for his party's nomination. Palin's Positive Intensity Score of 18 puts her in fourth place among the 13 candidates tested, while Romney's score of 13 is right at the average score across the candidates. Neither has officially announced that he or she is running for president, although Romney has established a 2012 exploratory committee and website. Romney's Positive Intensity Score has dropped seven percentage points from his high of 20 earlier this year.

Texas Rep. **Ron Paul**, with a recognition score of 75%, is the best known of the five candidates who appeared in the South Carolina debate on May 5. His Positive Intensity Score of 14 is roughly the same as it has been all year.

The other three Republicans who appeared in the May 5 debate were **Tim Pawlenty, Rick Santorum, and Gary Johnson.** Former Minnesota Gov. Pawlenty has become better known over the last several months; his name recognition has gone up nine points, from 40% earlier this year to 49% now. Pawlenty's Positive Intensity Score of 16 puts him slightly above average, and he scores higher than the better-known Romney and Gingrich. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Santorum is known by 47% of Republicans, with a Positive Intensity Score of 13. Former New Mexico Gov. Johnson's name recognition has climbed to 19% from 11%, but he remains the least known of the 13 candidates tested. Johnson's Positive Intensity Score (3) is second lowest of the group, after Trump's.

Former Utah Gov. **Jon Huntsman** has just returned from his stint as U.S. ambassador to China. One in four Republicans recognizes Huntsman, but his Positive Intensity Score has slipped in the last two weeks, from 14 between April 4 and April 24 to his current 6. It is possible that Huntsman's association with President Obama, who appointed him as ambassador, is hurting him among Republicans. Huntsman has not announced officially that he is running for the GOP nomination, but is actively making speeches and visiting early primary states.

Indiana Gov. **Mitch Daniels**, who, along with Paul and Bachmann, is one of only three potential candidates who currently holds a political office, is recognized by 34% of Republicans, little changed since early March. His current Positive Intensity Score of 11 is below average. Daniels is said to be weeks away from an announcement about his presidential intentions.

Bottom Line

The field of candidates running for the GOP presidential nomination is beginning to take a little firmer shape with the pending official announcement of Gingrich's candidacy. Still, most of the best-known and most highly liked potential candidates are so far "unofficial." At this point, as has been the case since Gallup's tracking began earlier this year, the unannounced candidate Huckabee generates the most enthusiasm among Republicans who know him.

Gingrich's declining Positive Intensity Score is not good news for the soon-to-be official candidate. Given the renewed visibility that will accrue as he enters the race on Wednesday, Gingrich in theory has the potential to alter these perceptions.

Trump's presidential intentions remain unclear. Trump has scored well in several trial-heat ballot tests in recent weeks, likely because of his high name recognition. But the current more detailed data on his image among Republicans nationwide certainly suggest he would not have an easy path to the GOP nomination should he decide to jump into the race. He has as many strong detractors as strong supporters, leaving him with the lowest Positive Intensity Score of any candidate measured.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking April 25-May 8, 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 13 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-only 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 phone 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/147482/Gingrich-Begins-High-Recognition-Low-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

171-22. Obama Bump Recedes a Bit

Post-bin Laden Update

May 9, 2011

Barack Obama's job approval rating has fallen slightly since the day after Osama bin Laden's death was announced. But the balance of opinion regarding Obama's job performance remains more positive than it was in early April. There also continues to be more optimism about the U.S. achieving its goals in Afghanistan than there was prior to bin Laden's killing.

Obama Approval: Before and After bin Laden's Death

Obama job approval...	Feb 22-Mar 1	Mar 30-Apr 3	May 2	May 5-8
	%	%	%	%
Approve	51	47	56	50
Disapprove	39	45	38	39
Don't know	10	8	6	11
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 5-8, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Currently, 50% approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president while 39% disapprove. In a May 2 poll by the Pew Research Center and *The Washington Post*, 56% approved while 38% disapproved. Obama's current job rating represents an improvement from early April, when 47% approved of his job performance and nearly as many (45%) disapproved.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted May 5-8 among 1,003 adults, finds that satisfaction with national conditions also is higher than it was before bin Laden's killing. Currently 30% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country while 62% are dissatisfied. In the May 2 poll, 32% were satisfied and 62% dissatisfied. In mid-March, just 22% had a positive view of national conditions, while 73% were dissatisfied.

The public is more optimistic about the United States achieving its goals in Afghanistan than it was prior to bin Laden's death. Currently, 62% say the United States will definitely or probably succeed in achieving its goals, compared with 24% who say the U.S. will definitely or probably fail.

Views of Afghanistan: More Optimism, Continued Division over Troop Presence

Will U.S. achieve goals in Afghanistan?	June 2010	Dec 2010	May 2 2011	May 5-8 2011
	%	%	%	%
Definitely/probably succeed	59	49	63	62
Definitely/probably fail	33	39	26	24
Don't know	8	11	10	13
	100	100	100	100
U.S. troops in Afghanistan...				
Keep troops in until situation has stabilized	53	44	47	43
Remove troops as soon as possible	40	47	48	49
Don't know	6	8	4	8
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 5-8, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

These views are little changed from the poll conducted May 2 (63% definitely/probably succeed vs. 26% definitely/probably fail). But there is far more optimism about U.S. success in Afghanistan today than there was last December, when just 49% said the U.S. would definitely or probably achieve its goals.

However, increased optimism about the chances for success in Afghanistan has not boosted support for maintaining U.S. forces in the country. Currently, 43% favor keeping U.S. troops in Afghanistan until the situation there has stabilized, compared with 49% who support removing the troops as soon as possible. That is little changed from the May 2 survey or from last December.

Republicans continue to be far more supportive of maintaining U.S. troops in Afghanistan than either independents or Democrats. In the new survey, 60% of Republicans favor keeping the troops there until the situation has stabilized; just 40% of independents and 36% of Democrats agree.

The survey also finds that by a wide margin (39% to 6%), more Americans think that Pakistan mostly hurt rather than helped U.S. efforts to find Osama bin Laden; 52% say they do not know enough to say. These views also have shown little movement since May 2. In that survey, 34% said Pakistan mostly hurt U.S. efforts to find bin Laden; 8% said Pakistan mostly helped those efforts; 54% did not know enough to say.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1987/obama-approval-before-after-bin-laden-death-bump

171-23. Obama's Birth Certificate Convinces Some, but Not All, Skeptics

Less than half of Republicans still say he was definitely or probably born in the U.S.

May 13, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Barack Obama's release of his long-form birth certificate in late April appears to have removed some -- but not all -- doubt among Americans about where the president was born. More Americans now say he was definitely born in the United States (47%) than did so before its release (38%) and they are joined by 18% who say this is probably the case. Significantly fewer -- but still 13% -- say he was probably or definitely born in another country.

Do you think Barack Obama was definitely born in the United States, probably born in the United States, probably born in another country, definitely born in another country, or don't you know enough to say?

	Apr 20-23, 2011^	May 5-8, 2011	Change
Definitely born in U.S.	38	47	9
Probably born in U.S.	18	18	0
Probably born in another country	15	8	-7
Definitely born in another country	9	5	-4
Don't know enough to say	19	20	1

^ Asked in rotation with Sarah Palin or Donald Trump

GALLUP

The most recent results are from a Gallup poll conducted May 5-8, while the prior results are from an April 20-23 Gallup poll. Obama released his long-form birth certificate on April 27.

The release came after years of skeptical chatter on the topic and vocal criticism of Obama from some Republicans, including Donald Trump, for withholding the document. While it may not yet be clear whether the most vocal so-called "birthers" were convinced by the certificate's release, the Gallup surveys show that many Americans across the political spectrum were.

Nearly half of Republicans (49%) now say Obama was definitely or probably born in the U.S., up from 35%. The same is true for 65% of independents, up from 56%, and 81% of Democrats, up from 78%. Republicans are 20 percentage points less likely to say Obama was definitely or probably born in another country, though 23% remain steadfast in this view. They are joined by 14% of independents and 5% of Democrats.

Do you think Barack Obama was definitely born in the United States, probably born in the United States, probably born in another country, definitely born in another country, or don't you know enough to say?

By party

	Definitely/Probably born in U.S.	Definitely/Probably born in another country
	%	%
REPUBLICANS		
May 5-8, 2011	49	23
Apr 20-23, 2011	35	43
Change	14	-20
INDEPENDENTS		
May 5-8, 2011	65	14
Apr 20-23, 2011	56	20
Change	9	-6
DEMOCRATS		
May 5-8, 2011	81	5
Apr 20-23, 2011	78	9
Change	3	-4

GALLUP

Bottom Line

President Obama's release of his long-form birth certificate appears to have significantly reduced skepticism about his place of birth, but by no means completely. All political groups are more likely after the release than they were before it to say Obama was definitely or probably born in the U.S. Still, 13% of all Americans and nearly one in four Republicans continue to say he was definitely or probably born in another country. And one in five Americans still say they don't know enough to say one way or the other.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 5-8, 2011, with a random sample of 1,018 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones 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-only 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 phone 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/147530/Obama-Birth-Certificate-Convinces-Not-Skeptics.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

171-24. Americans Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling, 47% to 19%

Thirty-four percent don't know enough about the issue to say

May 13, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- By a 47% to 19% margin, Americans say they would want their member of Congress to vote against raising the U.S. debt ceiling, while 34% don't know enough to say. Republicans oppose raising the debt ceiling by 70% to 8% and independents by 46% to 15%. Democrats favor raising the ceiling by 33% to 26%.

Americans' Feelings About Raising the Federal Debt Ceiling

From what you know or have read about the discussions of raising the debt ceiling, would you want your member of Congress to -- ___________ -- or don't you know enough to say?

	All Americans	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
Vote in favor of raising debt ceiling	19%	8%	15%	33%
Vote against raising the debt ceiling	47%	70%	46%	26%
Don't know enough to say	34%	21%	40%	40%

May 5-8, 2011

GALLUP

These results are based on a May 5-8 Gallup poll, which asked Americans about the issue but did not offer reasons for or against raising the debt ceiling. The Congress is generally expected to pass debt ceiling legislation, although it is unclear what additional provisions will be needed in order to secure passage.

Majority of Americans Are Following Debt Ceiling Issue

A majority of Americans (57%) say they are closely following the news about "discussions to raise the U.S. debt ceiling, the maximum amount of money the U.S. government can borrow by law." Republicans are following the issue more closely than are Democrats and independents; upper-income Americans are following it more closely than lower-income Americans; and those with a postgraduate education more so than those with a high school education or less.

How Closely Americans Are Following Discussions About Raising the Federal Debt Ceiling

How closely are you following the news about discussions to raise the U.S. debt ceiling, the maximum amount of money the U.S. government can borrow by law?

	All Americans	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
Very closely	23%	32%	22%	16%
Somewhat closely	34%	34%	31%	35%
Not too closely	23%	16%	22%	31%
Not at all	19%	17%	22%	18%

May 5-8, 2011

GALLUP'

Americans are more likely to oppose than favor raising the debt ceiling, regardless of how closely they are following the news about the issue. Among the 23% who are following the debt ceiling discussion very closely, 62% are opposed and 25% are in favor of raising the current ceiling. Among those who are following the issue less closely, opposition outnumbers support by at least a 2-to-1 margin.

Implications

The U.S. Treasury Department expects that the U.S. government will technically reach its $14.3 trillion debt ceiling on Monday, May 16. The May 5-8 Gallup poll suggests that a vote in favor of raising the debt ceiling could be a difficult one for many members of Congress, particularly for Republicans.

Resolution of the issue is likely to take considerable time and maneuvering. Members of both parties will need to come to agreement on legislation that adds enough spending cuts, tax changes, and perhaps budget processes -- such as requirements to force spending reductions if the ratio of government spending to GDP reaches a certain point -- that can garner a majority of votes in both houses of Congress.

In one sense, this is more of a political than a financial issue. As former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan noted, the Congress has already passed legislation spending the money at stake, so there seems to be little choice but to allow the Treasury to raise the funds it needs to meet the government's obligations. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner have also noted that raising the debt ceiling is financially essential. In this same vein, many on Wall Street and many investors around the world seem confident that after the required political battling, the Congress will raise the U.S. debt ceiling.

Americans conditioned by so much news coverage of the enormous federal budget deficit may be reacting to the idea of raising the debt ceiling more in the context of a political deficit discussion as opposed to a financial market implications context. Nevertheless, the public's perceptions are clearly negative, suggesting the debt ceiling vote is a political hurdle lawmakers will need to overcome.

Probably anticipating that eventuality, the Treasury seems to be working on plans to extend its financing efforts so that it will be Aug. 2 before default potentially becomes a reality. In turn, this lag time could create considerable uncertainty in the global financial markets as the summer progresses.

Regardless, it may be worthwhile to think back to what happened with the financial bailout legislation --the so-called TARP -- in 2008. This was another unpopular piece of financial legislation that the president, the Treasury secretary, and the Fed chairman all supported, saying it was essential for global stability. After first voting this legislation down and watching the markets plunge, the Congress passed TARP. Efforts to pass unpopular legislation to raise the debt ceiling could create similar challenges.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 5-8, 2011, with a random sample of 1,018 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-only 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 phone 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.

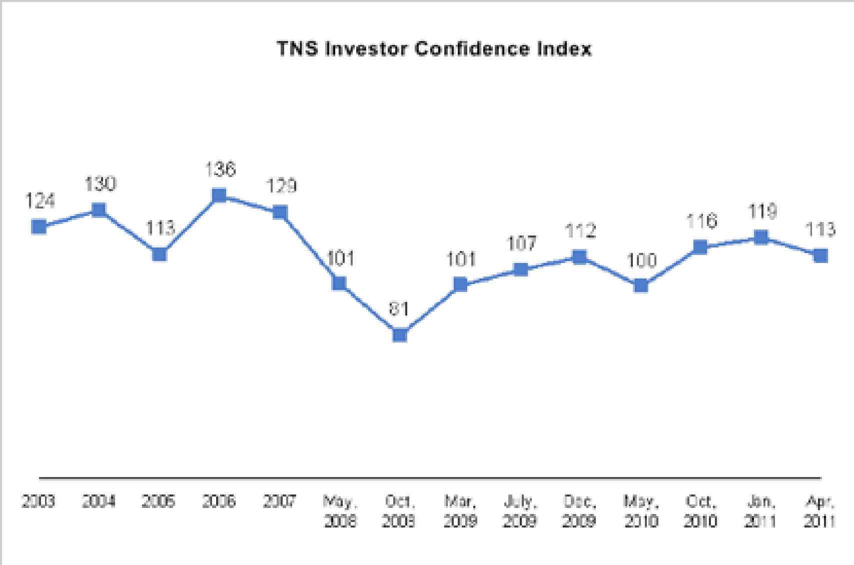
Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/147524/Americans-Oppose-Raising-Debt-Ceiling.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

171-25. Confidence declines among affluent investors

13.05.2011 United States

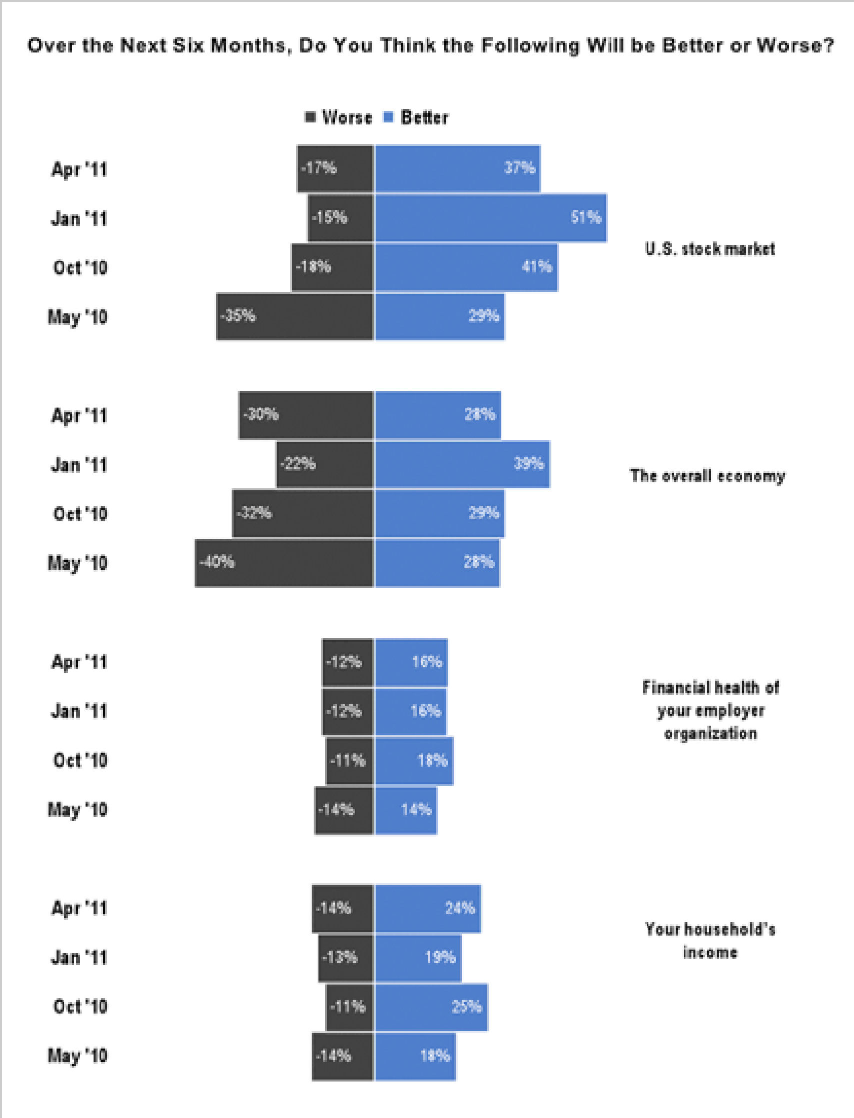
In a reversal of trends, a new TNS survey shows a decrease in confidence among...

In a reversal of trends, a new TNS survey shows a decrease in confidence among affluent investors. In its first decline in nearly a year, the TNS Investor Confidence Index declined to 113 in April. Optimism over the direction of the economy and the stock market has eroded despite overall investor confidence remaining in positive territory.

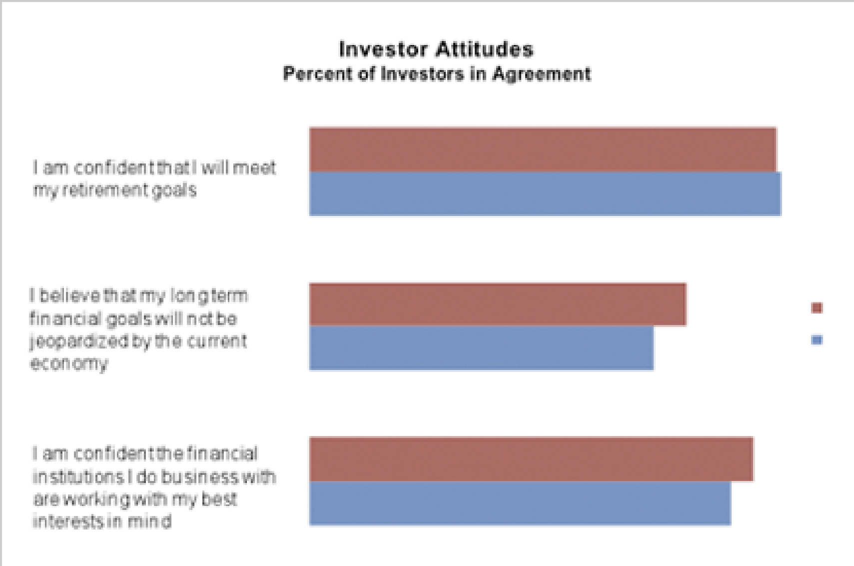


According to Ellen Sills-Levy, SVP Investment Research at TNS, "In addition to the slower GDP growth in the first quarter, the past few months have seen a confluence of worrisome events: rising gas and crude oil prices, a near shutdown of the U.S. Government over fiscal policy, warnings that the U.S. debt ceiling will soon be reached, budget proposals that call for large cuts in spending, and both perceived and real inflation in everyday products. All these factors appear to be adversely impacting investor confidence."

Despite concerns about the economy and the financial markets, affluent investors remain cautiously upbeat about their personal incomes and the financial health of their employers.



Affluent investors remain confident about their own prospects for the long term. An overwhelming majority believe they will meet their retirement goals. Two-thirds are confident the economy will not jeopardize their financial aspirations. And, in what should be welcome news for investment services firms, 8 in 10 now agree that their financial providers work with their best interests in mind.



About the TNS Investor Confidence Index

The TNS Investor Confidence Index is a product of TNS' Affluent Market Research Program. The index is a composite measure of confidence based on investor expectations for the next six months. The most recent measure is based on a survey conducted online April 8 – 18, 2011. The statistics cited here reflect the answers of 1,551 respondents who had total investable assets of $500,000 or more. TNS' Affluent Market Research Program has been a leading source of market intelligence on the upscale investor and the savings/investment marketplace since 1981.

About TNS

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

Source: http://www.tnsglobal.com/news/news-39850331EAB44715960D1881A1D1DB47.aspx

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MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

171-26. Worldwide, Peace and High Wellbeing Generally Coexist

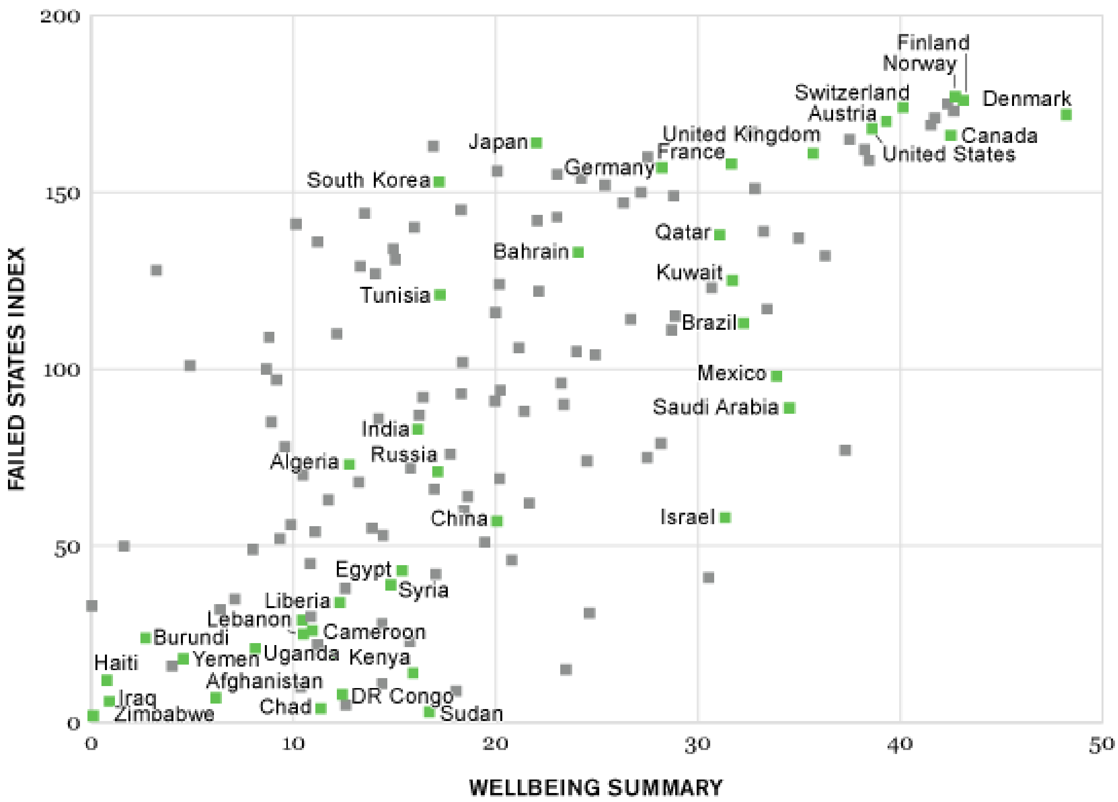
Countries with the highest wellbeing tend to be the most peaceful

May 13, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. **--** As leaders including the Dalai Lama gather in Newark, N.J., to discuss ways to cultivate peace-building, a new Gallup analysis finds countries with the highest wellbeing tend to be the most peaceful countries in the world and those with the lowest wellbeing are the least likely to be peaceful. Gallup's life evaluation measure, which gauges wellbeing, correlates strongly with the Failed States Index and the World Bank's Political

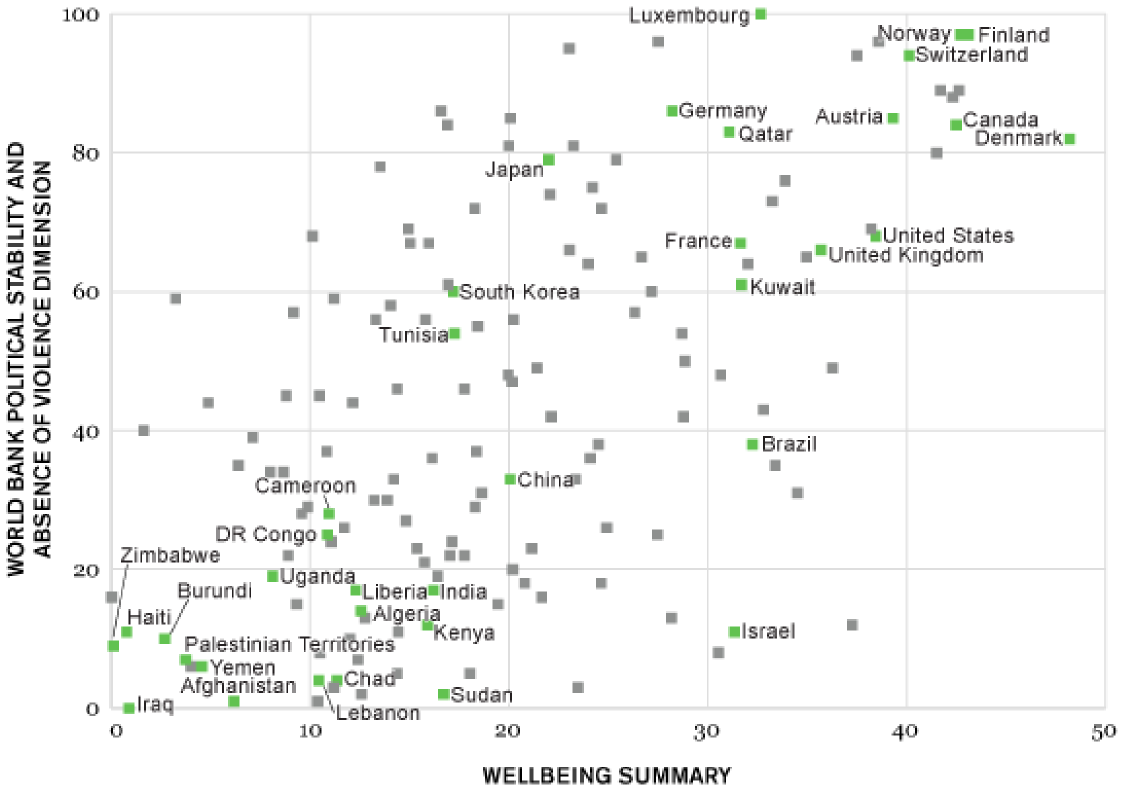
Stability and Absence of Violence dimension, suggesting a clear linear relationship between peace and high wellbeing.

Relationship Between Wellbeing and the Failed States Index



GALLUP

Relationship Between Wellbeing and the World Bank Political Stability and Absence of Violence Dimension



GALLUP

These two important and complex ideas -- wellbeing and peace -- are often considered difficult to measure or to quantify. Gallup tackles the former by collecting wellbeing data in more than 150 countries. While Gallup's measures cover many elements vital to high wellbeing, the life evaluation component based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale has emerged as a powerful summary measure of overall wellbeing.

The Failed States Index and the World Bank attempt to tackle the latter by developing sophisticated measures of stability. The Failed States Index measures countries on social, economic, and political indicators and draws its data from English-language news reports. The Political Stability and Absence of Violence dimension, according to the World Bank, "captures perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically motivated violence and terrorism."

The data are clear: Where there is high wellbeing, there is peace, and where wellbeing wanes, there is potential for conflict, for instability, and for violence, and peace is threatened.

Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Denmark, and Norway are among the high wellbeing countries that also have scores that indicate they are stable, peaceful countries according to the Failed States Index and World Bank dimension. These are undoubtedly among the most stable, peaceful countries on the planet.

On the other hand, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Burundi, Haiti, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ivory Coast are countries that have low wellbeing and low peace/stability scores.

Gallup observes a relationship between wellbeing and real-world situations. Most notably, wellbeing in Egypt and Tunisia declined in the years leading up to the recent revolutions there. Similar patterns are evident in other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Bahrain.

Implications

Based on these findings, it is fair to ask: Can we have peace if we can achieve high wellbeing? Or, can we have high wellbeing if we achieve peace? Peace is elusive, and the path that leads to it is complicated and hard to define and understand. Gallup researchers and others worldwide are unearthing the keys to good wellbeing. While it is not certain, it appears possible that efforts to enhance the wellbeing of a citizenry may ultimately foster peace.

Glenn Phelps contributed to this report.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in each country, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 in more than 150 countries. Almost all countries had at least two years of data and most had three or more. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ±1 percentage point in those countries with sample sizes of 3,000 or more to a high of ±3 percentage points in those countries with sample sizes of 1,000.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/147515/Worldwide-Peace-High-Wellbeing-Generally-Coexist.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Asia%20-%20Behavioral%20Economics%20-%20Latin%20America%20-%20Muslim%20World%20-%20Wellbeing

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CYBERWORLD

171-27. The Social Life of Health Information, 2011

May 12, 2011

Summary of Findings

"I don't know, but I can try to find out" is the default setting for people with health questions.

The internet has changed people's relationships with information. Our data consistently show that doctors, nurses and other health professionals continue to be the first choice for most people with health concerns, but online resources, including advice from peers, are a significant source of health information in the U.S.

These findings are based on a national telephone survey conducted in August and September 2010 among 3,001 adults in the U.S. The complete methodology and results are appended to this report.

The survey finds that, of the 74% of adults who use the internet:

- 80% of internet users have looked online for information about any of the 15 health topics asked about such as a specific disease or treatment. This translates to 59% of all adults.
- 34% of internet users, or 25% of adults, have read someone else's commentary or experience about health or medical issues on an online news group, website or blog.
- 25% of internet users, or 19% of adults, have watched an online video about health or medical issues.

- 24% of internet users, or 18% of adults, have consulted online reviews of particular drugs or medical treatments.
- 18% of internet users, or 13% of adults, have gone online to find others who might have health concerns similar to theirs.
- 16% of internet users, or 12% of adults, have consulted online rankings or reviews of doctors or other providers.
- 15% of internet users, or 11% of adults, have consulted online rankings or reviews of hospitals or other medical facilities.

The % of adult internet users who have looked online for information about...

66	specific disease or medical problem
56	certain medical treatment or procedure
44	doctors or other health professionals
36	hospitals or other medical facilities
33	health insurance, including private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid
29	food safety or recalls
24	drug safety or recalls
22	environmental health hazards
19	pregnancy and childbirth
17	memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's
16	medical test results
14	how to manage chronic pain
12	long-term care for an elderly or disabled person
7	end-of-life decisions
28	another health topic not included in the survey
80	**at least one of the above topics**

Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, August 9-September 13, 2010 Survey. N=3001 adults and the margin of error is +/- 3 percentage points for the full sample.

Of those who use social network sites (62% of adult internet users, or 46% of all adults):

- 23% of social network site users, or 11% of adults, have followed their friends' personal health experiences or updates on the site.
- 17% of social network site users, or 8% of adults, have used social networking sites to remember or memorialize other people who suffered from a certain health condition.
- 15% of social network site users, or 7% of adults, have gotten any health information on the sites.

"I know, and I want to share my knowledge" is the leading edge of health care.

As broadband and mobile access spreads, more people have the ability -- and increasingly, the habit -- of sharing what they are doing or thinking. In health care this translates to people tracking their workout routines, posting reviews of their medical treatments and raising awareness about certain health conditions.

These are not yet mainstream activities, but there are pockets of highly-engaged patients and caregivers who are taking an active role in tracking and sharing what they have learned.

Of adults who use the internet:

- 27% of internet users, or 20% of adults, have tracked their weight, diet, exercise routine or some other health indicators or symptoms online.
- 6% of internet users, or 4% of adults, have posted comments, questions or information about health or medical issues on a website of any kind, such as a health site or news site that allows comments and discussion.
- 4% of internet users, or 3% of adults, have posted their experiences with a particular drug or medical treatment.
- 4% of internet users, or 3% of adults, have posted a review online of a doctor.
- 3% of internet users, or 2% of adults, have posted a review online of a hospital.

Of adults who use social network sites:

- 14% of social network site users, or 6% of adults, have raised money for or drawn attention to a health-related issue or cause.
- 11% of social network site users, or 5% of adults, have posted comments, queries, or information about health or medical matters.
- 9% of social network site users, or 4% of adults, have started or joined a health-related group on a social networking site.

The social life of health information is robust. The online conversation about health is being driven forward by two forces: 1) the availability of social tools and 2) the motivation, especially among people living with chronic conditions, to connect with each other.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1989/health-care-online-social-network-users

171-28. Mobile Banking Surges As Emerging Markets Embrace Mobile Finance

· Over 50% of consumers in rapid growth economies* want to use mobile phones for greater access to financial services

· Mobile phones set to become the 'virtual debit card' in rapid growth markets where demand exceeds developed markets by 18%

Shanghai – 12th May, 2011. Global use of 'mobile finance'** surged in the past year as the spread of new technology and mobile banking infrastructure drove a huge increase in take-up rates around the world, new research from TNS, the world's largest custom research company, reveals today.

In countries as diverse as China, Brazil and Kenya the number of new users of mobile banking soared over 100% in 12 months, as banks leapfrogged traditional service models and moved directly to mobile. The increases were not restricted to emerging markets alone though: take-up rates also surged in the UK, USA, Singapore, South Korea and Sweden where banks offered customers new services via their mobile handset. For example, people can manage their money from the mobile phone handset, via SMS message or smartphone app, and check their balances, move money between accounts, pay bills and, increasingly, buy goods and services.

Analysing the findings, James Fergusson, Global Technology Sector Head at TNS, said: "Mobile finance technologies have the tremendous capacity to be transformational in rapid growth markets, empowering consumers by giving them greater access to financial services.

"The necessity, marked interest and the blossoming mobile finance infrastructure means that countries such as Brazil and China have the right ingredients to drive mobile finance growth, not just in their own markets, but globally as well."

The research has been released as part of TNS **Mobile Life**, an annual report on mobile consumer usage, and reveals a wealth of opportunities for banks, retailers and mobile service providers to develop for existing and potential customers.?

Percentage increase in mobile banking usage from 2010 to 2011:

Country	**Percentage of consumers using in 2010**	**Percentage of consumers using in 2011**	**Percentage Increase**
China	10	25	150
Brazil	10	21	110
Keny a	6	18	200
USA	11	22	100

In the UK the proportion of people using mobile banking increased from 9.7% in 2010 to 20.4% in 2011, while in the USA the rates from 11.4% to 21.9%. In Sweden it was greater still: 8.1% to 20%.

And while adoption rates increased, desire for mobile banking in areas where it is not widespread is strong, peaking in sub-Saharan Africa, where almost two-thirds (63%) of mobile owners expressed an interest in mobile banking.

Bob Neuhaus, Global Finance Sector Head at TNS, said: ?"A significant proportion of the world's population does not have access to banking services. Making mobile banking easy to access in these markets will not only help create a more sophisticated consumer marketplace and drive development of the banking sector, but also provides a huge opportunity for the mobile industry."

"Our insights from the **Mobile Life** study demonstrate that in more mature markets, mobile banking is simply a matter of convenience, and largely an extension of the PC online experience – allowing the same online convenience, while mobile; however in developing markets mobile may provide an entry point to banking for millions of 'unbanked' people, in countries where banking infrastructure is poor, and banking restrictions create barriers."

Emerging markets outpace the West in usage and demand for mobile wallet

Mobile money extends the concept by turning handsets into mobile wallets, capable of being loaded up with and storing money. As well as delivering new services in developed markets, mobile wallets can bring people without bank accounts (the unbanked) into the wider financial world and help drive economic and social development. The **Mobile Life** research shows that mobile wallet adoption has more than doubled across emerging markets, as they take advantage of the new opportunities it offers – a much higher take-up rate than in developed countries.

TNS **Mobile Life** demonstrates that developed countries/regions such as the USA, Singapore and Hong Kong have made minimal progression in mobile wallet adoption over the past year. The USA moved from 6% in 2010 to 8% in 2011, Singapore increased from 10% to 13%, Hong Kong from 16% to 17%. In contrast, mobile wallet usage in Chile was below 1% in 2010, but has risen to 7% in 2011 - just one percentage point below the USA and higher than Australia (6%), France (5%) and the Netherlands (5%).

Percentage increase in mobile wallet usage from 2010 to 2011:

Country	**Percentage of consumers using in 2010**	**Percentage of consumers using in 2011**	**Percentage Increase**
Brazil	9	20	122
Kenya	10	25	150
USA	6	8	33

Emerging markets driving global mobile finance growth

The increased adoption and demand for mobile finance in emerging markets present a huge opportunity for companies to reach new customers. "The past few years have shown us the tremendous potential for emerging markets to 'leap-frog' more developed markets in adopting new technology. Our findings from this research suggest that the uptake of mobile banking services is set to follow this trend," comments Fergusson. He concludes, "In countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Emerging Asia where there is high mobile phone prevalence, the lack of robust financial services and a need for efficient payment methods has contributed to very strong appeal for mobile finance. It's a logical fit."

~ENDS~

Note to editors:

*Countries included in the "high growth potential" or "emerging markets" grouping of TNS Mobile Life are:
Tier one emerging markets - S Arabia, UAE, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, China, Indonesia, S Africa, Chile, Morocco,

Tier two emerging markets - India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, Nigeria, Kenya, Philippines, Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala & Costa Rica, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda.

** Mobile finance refers to using a mobile phone to make payments and access bank account details. It includes both mobile banking, whereby consumers are able to use a mobile phone for various financial services such as accessing bank account details and managing accounts, and mobile wallet, where consumers can use their mobiles to purchase goods at point of sale.??

About TNS Mobile Life

www.discovermobilelife.com

Mobile Life is an annual investigation from TNS designed to provide a deep understanding of today's global mobile device consumers and the future impact mobile will have on our digital landscape.
34,000* interviews with mobile users across over 43 countries provides real insight into how consumers across the world are using and interacting with mobile technology and delivers a holistic understanding of the end-to-end consumer experience and how

this will change in the future.
Invaluable insights to support:

Offer development

Identify current and future usage patterns for features, services and Apps
Brand strategy

Build strategies across the mobile ecosystem, understand brand strengths, weakness and collaboration opportunities

Activation

Track the consumer purchase process and drivers of purchase
Cross-platform planning

Prioritise your marketing strategies across mobile, PC and tablet based on current usage patterns and future preference
Base for the study:

TNS interviewed over 34,000 16-60 year-old consumers in 43 countries, using a mix of face-to-face and online questionnaires, dependent on the market. The study focuses on the mobile consumer - both those who already use mobile devices and those who are 'prospects' likely to start using in the near future.? In many markets this means covering the entire market, so the samples are nationally representative, but in other markets the focus is on urban populations.
Countries covered in the study:
Argentina, Australia, *Benin, *Brazil, *Cameroon, Canada, *Chile, *China, *Costa Rica, France, Germany, *Ghana, *Guatemala, Hong Kong, *India, *Indonesia, Italy, Japan, *Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, *Mexico, *Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, *Nigeria, *Pakistan, *Philippines, *Russia, *South Africa, *Saudi Arabia, *Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, *Tanzania, *Thailand, *UAE, *Uganda, UK, USA, *Vietnam.

* Countries where base is urban population.

Source: http://www.tns-global.com.cn/news20110512_1.asp

171-29. Google Ranks Highest on Corporate Reputation in 12th Annual Harris Interactive U.S. Reputation Quotient® (RQ®) Survey

U.S. General Public Gives Corporate America's Most Visible Companies Higher Ratings Overall; Largest Number of Individual Companies Rank 'Excellent' in 12-year History of RQ Study

New York, NY, May 2, 2011 - After falling to unforeseen lows amidst scandals, recalls and self-inflicted demonization economic crises, the American public's positive perception of the reputation of corporate America is on the rise. Overall corporate reputation is experiencing rehabilitation as the American public gives high marks overall to corporate America, specific industries, and the largest number of individual companies in a dozen years. This, according to the findings of the 2011 Harris Interactive RQ Study, which measures the reputations of the 60 Most Visible Companies in the U.S. This is the 12 th year for the study, established in 1999.

Of the 20 notable changes in reputation among the 54 companies measured in both 2010 and 2011, 18 had significant positive increases, compared to only two declines. An astounding 16 companies received an RQ score over 80, which is considered to be an "Excellent" reputation, a sharp increase from the six companies so recognized in the 2010 survey.

Google ranked highest, supplanting Berkshire Hathaway, which falls to the 4th position. Johnson & Johnson ranked second again, followed by 3M Company at 3rd. Apple continues a steady rise begun in 2002, ranking 5th, as its corporate reputation catches up with its elite brand status.

Robert Fronk, Senior Vice President, Global Practice Lead, Reputation Management at Harris Interactive, stated "The record 16 companies that received RQ scores reflective of an excellent reputation should all be lauded for their focus and commitment to reputation management. These companies recognize that it is this behavioral commitment that earns them reputation equity, not tactics designed to help them score well on lists like these."

Google Vice President of Consumer Marketing Gary Briggs reacted to the news. "We have always believed that if we focus on making the best products for our users all else will follow. We're honored to be recognized in this ranking and we will continue to put our users first."

Tech Looms Large

The technology sector continues to be perceived most positively, with 75% giving the sector a positive rating, versus the number two sector, retail, which fares at 57% positive. Technology/Internet and Consumer Goods companies dominate the top rankings, with top 10 finishers 3M, Apple, and amazon.com benefitting from being associated with both industries.

"These top scoring companies are seen as supporting the infrastructure of the lives of the American public", says Robert Fronk, "and they get credit for simplifying, delighting, or enriching people's lives."

Facebook is a newcomer to the RQ Most Visible List, debuting in the middle of the pack (ranked 31st) with a RQ score of 74.12.

Auto Industry Shines

The auto industry had a significant increase in positive perceptions, jumping 15 points from 2010, the largest year over year gain by any industry in the study's 12-year history.

All three domestic auto companies demonstrate positive momentum compared to 2010 and were among the ten most improved companies in the study. Building on its progress from last year, Ford improved its RQ score to 74.61, from 69.77. Ford is the second highest ranked car company, following Honda, which maintained its consistently high rating. Toyota ranks third among automakers but suffered a RQ decline of 9.96 points. GM and Chrysler achieved the 3 rd and 4th highest gains in 2011.

Stabilizing but Still Struggling

Financial services firms and oil companies continue to populate the bottom of the rankings. AIG came in last position, with newcomer BP just edging above in the 59th position. Goldman Sachs and Citigroup filled the remaining 2 slots in the bottom four. These four lowest rated companies were also rated lowest on the reputation characteristics of "being trusted to do the right thing" and "having high ethical standards".

Following are some additional findings of interest:

- The top 10 companies on this year's list in order of ranking include: 1) Google; 2) Johnson & Johnson; 3) 3M Company; 4) Berkshire Hathaway; 5) Apple; 6) Intel Corporation; 7) Kraft Foods; 8) amazon.com; 9) General Mills; 10) The Walt Disney Company. For a full list of the top 60 companies and other findings visit: www.harrisinteractive.com.

- In addition to the top 10, 6 other companies received scores indicating they have an excellent reputation level. Those additional companies are: Proctor and Gamble Co., SC Johnson, UPS, Sony, The Coca-Cola Company, and Microsoft.
- The bottom 10 companies on this year's list in order of ranking include: 51.) Delta Airlines; 52) JP Morgan Chase; 53) Exxon Mobil; 54) General Motors; 55) Bank of America; 56) Chrysler; 57) Citigroup; 58) Goldman Sachs; 59) BP; 60) AIG.
- There are six reputational dimensions that the RQ survey focuses on that influence reputation and consumer behavior. Below are the six dimensions along with the five corporations that ranked highest within each:
- **Social Responsibility** - 1) Whole Foods Market; 2) Johnson & Johnson; 3) Google; 4) The Walt Disney Company; 5) Procter & Gamble Co.
- **Emotional Appeal -** 1) Johnson & Johnson; 2) amazon.com; 3) UPS; 4) General Mills; 5) Kraft Foods
- **Financial Performance -** 1) Google; 2) Berkshire Hathaway; 3) Apple; 4) Intel; 5) The Walt Disney Company
- **Products & Services** - 1) Intel Corporation; 2) 3M Company; 3) Johnson & Johnson; 4) Google; 5) Procter & Gamble Co.
- **Vision & Leadership** - 1) Berkshire Hathaway; 2) Google; 3) Apple; 4) Intel Corporation; 5) The Walt Disney Company
- **Workplace Environment** - 1) Google; 2) Johnson & Johnson; 3) Apple; 4) Berkshire Hathaway; 5) 3M Company

Additional Information

To review selected research from the 2011 Harris Interactive RQ survey, please visit www.harrisinteractive.com.

Reputation Quotient Methodology

In its 12th consecutive year, The Annual RQ surveys more than 30,000 members of the American general public, utilizing its proprietary Harris Poll online panel. Respondents are first asked to identify the 60 most visible companies and then surveyed to rate these companies based on their reputation on 20 different attributes that comprise the RQ instrument. The attributes are then grouped into six different reputation dimensions: Emotional Appeal, Products & Services, Social Responsibility, Vision & Leadership, Workplace Environment, and Financial Performance. In addition to the 20 attributes, the study includes a number of reputation-related questions that help provide a comprehensive understanding of public perceptions. The 2011 RQ survey was conducted from December 30, 2010 to February 22, 2011.

About Harris Interactive

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

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