BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 176

Week: June 12-18, 2011

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<u>Introductory Note</u>

This week report consists of 34 surveys. Three of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 31 are national surveys from around the world.

<u>SUMMARY OF POLLS</u>

MIDDLE EAST

Improving Economic Views of Iraqis

Respondents feel that the economic condition in the country is improving. In four out of five provinces, Iraqis think their household economic conditions are doing better than previous years. (IRI)

June 16, 2011

WEST ASIA

Trust In Civil Society Institutions

According to a recent survey, only 33 % people say that they trust the NGO sector whereas a considerable majority expressed their trust in Religious Leaders, Educational Institutions and Media. Religious Leaders, Educational Institutions and Media were the most trusted civil society institutions enjoying the trust of 72%, 69% and 65% of the respondents respectively according to the survey. (Gallup Pakistan)

June 17, 2011

EASTT EUROPE

The Introduction Of The Euro In Poland

All in all, a third of adult Poles (31%) have used the euro. Most of them (30%) declare they paid or received payment in this currency in cash. One in nine (11%) say they used cashless transactions in euros and 4% claim they have a bank account or deposit in this currency. Only a few respondents declare (less than 1%) they took out a loan in euros. (CBOS)

April 2011

Destanilization In Progress

Among the initiatives within the destanilization project most of Russians support the idea to provide the free access for researchers to the documents related to the burial places of victims of political repressions, declassifying documents on political repressions in the country (71%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)

May 17, 2011

2011 Government Report To State Duma: Assessment By Russians

The report of Putin to the State Duma attracted the attention of one-quarter of Russians; 7% listened to his speech very attentively, 18% knew about it from the news. Those who put most attention to it are supporters of CPRF party (37%) and Fair Russia party (38%). As before, 56% did not pay attention to the speech of the prime-minister - they are mainly Russians younger than 35 (59%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)

May 16, 2011

Salary, Social Package And Prestige: What Is Important When Choosing Job?

The main factor for Russians when choosing job is the amount of salary (72%), followed by social guarantees according to the law; however the second factor is getting less important for Russians (from 37% in 2007 to 30% this year). Other important things for Russians are professional self-realization (23% versus 28% four years ago) and convenient schedule (23%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)

May 12, 2011

1000 Days Before Olympics

As a year ago, the overwhelming majority of Russians are confident that Russia will successfully hold the Olympics; and the share of those who think so has even increased (89%, in 2010 - 84%). Only 6% doubt that Russia will successfully conduct the Olympic Games. (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)

May 11, 2011

Drugs In Schools: Will Testing Help?

The overwhelming majority of Russians support school drug testing (83%): 57% - definitely support, 26% - rather support. Only 7% of respondents are against the idea. Every tenth respondent were hard to answer the question. (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)

May 10, 2011

WEST EUROPE

UK: Londoners Wouldn’t Want To Live Anywhere Else

New online research from YouGov’s London Omnibus reveals that Londoners believe house/rental prices do not represent good value for money. However, despite this they would not want to live anywhere else in the UK. (Yougov)

15 June 2011

UK: FIFA’s public perception fails to improve

SportsIndex research shows that the public’s perception of FIFA fails to improve as Corporate Reputation and Buzz scores continue to drop. (Yougov)

13 June 2011

UK: Economy Remains The Number One Issue, With Concern About Unemployment, Inflation And Prices Creeping Up

The June Economist/Ipsos MORI Issues Index shows that around half of the British public (51%) think the economy is one of the most important issues facing Britain today. This is the lowest level of concern about this issue since February 2010. Just under three in ten (28%) are concerned about unemployment, a proportion that has changed little since 2009. Concern about inflation and prices has increased three points this month to 14%. (Ipsos Mori)

June 2011

UK: Young People, Alcohol And Influences

A major survey of early teen drinking patterns in England has found that drinking escalates to a worrying extent during these years. The research, conducted by Ipsos MORI for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, also finds that family and friends have a strong influence on teenagers' drinking patterns, and are stronger influences than some other factors – such as individual well-being, celebrity figures and the media. (Ipsos Mori)

June 17, 2011

NORTH AMERICA

Obama Approval Rally Largely Over

President Obama's job approval rating averaged 46% for the week ending June 12, a significant decline from his weekly averages for most of May and nearly back to the level before Osama bin Laden's death on May 1. (Gallup USA)

June 15, 2011

U.S. Satisfaction Dips to 20% in June

Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the country fell to 20% in early June from 26% at the start of May. Seventy-eight percent of Americans are now dissatisfied with the nation's direction, according to a June 9-12 Gallup poll. (Gallup USA)

June 16, 2011

In U.S., Employer-Based Health Insurance Declines Further

Forty-five percent of American adults reported getting their health insurance from an employer in January through May of this year. This is down from 45.8% in 2010, and has been steadily declining since Gallup and Healthways started tracking health insurance sources in 2008. (Gallup USA)

June 17, 2011

2012 Voter Preferences for Obama, "Republican" Remain Close

Forty-four percent of registered voters say they are more likely to vote for "the Republican Party's candidate" and 39% for Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election, according to Gallup's June update. The current five-percentage-point edge for the generic Republican is not a statistically significant lead, and neither side has held a meaningful lead at any point thus far in 2011. (Gallup USA)

June 16, 2011

Bachmann Begins With Above-Average Recognition, Intensity

Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, who formally announced her presidential candidacy at Monday night's Republican debate in New Hampshire, is currently recognized by 62% of Republicans nationwide. Her Positive Intensity Score of 18 essentially ties the better-known Mitt Romney's 19. (Gallup USA)

June 14, 2011

U.S. Economic Confidence Plunges in Early June

A sharp deterioration in the jobs outlook and six straight weeks of Wall Street declines sent Americans' confidence in the U.S. economy plunging to an average of -35 during the week ending June 12 -- a decline of nine percentage points from two weeks ago, and six

points worse than it was in the same week a year ago. Economic confidence is now approaching a 2011 weekly low. (Gallup USA)
June 14, 2011

For Half of GOP, Nominee Pick Rests on Ability to Beat Obama

Republicans nationwide are closely divided between those preferring that their party's 2012 presidential nominee be the person with the best chance of beating President Barack Obama and those favoring someone who shares their views on the issues they most care about. Given this choice, slightly more prioritize electability over issue agreement, 50% vs. 44%. (Gallup USA)
June 13, 2011

Romney Support Up; Widens Advantage in 2012 Preferences

Republicans' support for Mitt Romney as their party's 2012 presidential nominee has increased significantly to 24%, compared with 17% in late May. As a result, Romney has widened his advantage over Sarah Palin in the latest update on rank-and-file Republicans' nomination preferences. (Gallup USA)
June 13, 2011

Congress' Job Approval Retreats to 17%

Seventeen percent of Americans approve of the job Congress is doing, down seven percentage points from May's 24% approval rating, but similar to where it was in March and April. Congress' approval rating has been below 25% since January 2010. (Gallup USA)
June 17, 2011

American Retail Investors In US-Listed Chinese Companies

Ipsos-CER survey shows that buyers of Chinese stocks tended to justify their stock purchases based on the growth prospects of the Chinese economy (61%). Sellers, by contrast, based their decisions largely on individual stock performance (56%). In other words, US investors appeared to buy on macro and sell on micro. (Ipsos China)
June 2011

A Tale of Two Fathers

The role of fathers in the modern American family is changing in important and countervailing ways. Fathers who live with their children have become more intensely involved in their lives, spending more time with them and taking part in a greater variety of activities. However, the share of fathers who are residing with their children has fallen significantly in the past half century. (Pew Research Center)
June 15, 2011

Most Say Political Sex Scandals Due to Greater Scrutiny, Not Lower Morality

Most Americans attribute the series of public sex scandals in recent years involving politicians more to the heightened scrutiny they face than to lower moral standards among elected officials. (Pew Research Center)
June 14, 2011

Lack of Retirement Funds Is Americans' Biggest Financial Worry

More Americans are worried about not having enough money for retirement (66%) than are worried about seven other financial matters Gallup asked about. Majorities of Americans, however, are also very or moderately worried about not being able to pay medical costs for a serious illness or accident and about not being able to maintain their standard of living. (Gallup USA)

June 15, 2011

AUSTRALASIA

Australians Local Concern is Economy But Global Concern is Environment

Australians believe the most important issues facing the World are Climate Change and other environmental problems. However, locally Australians are increasingly concerned about Economic & Financial issues; and less concerned about the environment, according to a recent survey. (Roy Morgan Research)

June 17, 2011

Overseas Holiday Intention Remains High In March 2011 Quarter

70% (12.9 million) of Australians 14 years or older intend to take at least one holiday in the next 12 months. The media types these holiday intenders consider most useful in deciding travel and accommodation are the internet (62%), followed by newspapers (13%), magazines (8%), yellow pages (5%), and catalogues and television (4% each) according to a recent survey. (Roy Morgan Research)

June 15, 2011

New Zealand Education Gender Gap Disappears

The gender disparity between university degree holders in New Zealand was non-existent as of December 2010 according to a recent study. A decade ago in 2001, 16% of males and 13% of females held university degrees — a real gender gap. By December 2010, 23% of males and 23% of females in New Zealand held a degree. (Roy Morgan Research)

June 15, 2011

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Europeans' Happiness Doesn't Necessarily Fade With Age

For Europeans as a whole, growing older generally means growing less happy. Fifty-seven percent of Europeans aged 75 and older said they experienced happiness "yesterday" versus 66% of younger residents who said the same. However, older Europeans fare better in certain regions, with happiness declining little in northern Europe. (Gallup USA)

June 16, 2011

Widespread Support For American Action Against Osama Bin Laden, But Views Are Divided On Details

Global Survey finds widespread support for American action against Osama bin Laden. However views are divided on the impact of OBL death on terrorism in the world and only half of the survey respondents are certain that OBL was actually killed. (Gallup International)

June 10, 2011

Rising Food Prices Are Changing What We Eat

People around the world are changing what they eat because of the rising cost of food according to a new global survey released today as part of the GROW campaign. Agriculture Ministers from the powerful group of G20 countries are meeting in France next week and will discuss the global food price crisis. (Globescan)

June 15, 2011

CYBER WORLD

Social Networking Sites and Our Lives

In this Pew Internet Project sample, 79% of American adults said they used the internet and nearly half of adults (47%), or 59% of internet users, say they use at least one of SNS. This is close to double the 26% of adults (34% of internet users) who used a SNS in 2008. Among other things, this means the average age of adult-SNS users has shifted from 33 in 2008 to 38 in 2010. Over half of all adult SNS users are now over the age of 35. Some 56% of SNS users now are female. (Pew Research Center)

June 16, 2011

The Mobile Wallet: An End To Flashing Your Cash?

Yougov study expects Mobile Wallet to be popular very soon. This prediction is based on the findings that 10% are likely to use the service in the future. And while 5% agree that they will get the technology as soon as it's available, the vast majority - almost a half (48%) – won't be rushing to swap their real wallet for their mobile wallet. (Yougov)

June 10, 2011

Consumers In U.S. Have Little Concern Over Cell Phone Cancer Risk

Over eighty percent of U.S. consumers surveyed, report being aware of the recent news released by the World Health Organization (WHO) that extensive cell phone use can increase possible cancer risk. Yet, despite having this knowledge, less than twenty percent will adjust their current behavior.

June 16, 2011

MIDDLE EAST

176-1. Improving Economic Views of Iraqis

IRI Iraq Index

The April 2011 survey of the Northern Triangle, which includes the provinces of Ninawa, Salahhadin, Kirkuk, Diyala and Anbar, tested Iraqis' opinions on key questions related to local level governance. This survey is part of a series of regional polls IRI has conducted in Iraq, the most recent of which tested opinion in the Kurdistan region in December 2010. Prior to the Kurdistan region poll, IRI conducted a series of nationwide surveys, the most recent of which was conducted in October 2010.

Economic Mood and General Indicators

The economic mood in the five provinces of the Northern Triangle is fairly optimistic. Diyala (58 percent), Ninawa (59 percent) and Salahhadin (54 percent) all had clear majorities answer very good or somewhat good when asked to describe the current economic situation in Iraq. Kirkuk, with 49 percent responding very good or somewhat good, was more mixed but again still relatively positive. Only Anbar, with 22 percent of participants responding positively and 75 percent responding very bad or somewhat bad, showed a pessimistic outlook for the country's economy.

This favorable feeling about the economy was reinforced across four of the five provinces. When respondents were asked about their own household economic situations, clear majorities or pluralities said that their household's financial situation was doing better than the previous year: Ninawa – 61 percent better, 20 percent worse; Kirkuk – 44 percent better, 11 percent worse; Salahhadin – 41 percent better, 22 percent worse; and Diyala – 47 percent better, 42 percent worse.

Again, only Anbar responded negatively, with 25 percent responding better and 38 percent worse. One possible reason for the economic pessimism in Anbar is the ongoing conflict between provincial and federal authorities over the development of the Akkaz natural gas field. The federal government has been aggressively attempting to control the development of this field, blocking attempts by the Anbar provincial council to funnel development funds into the local economy.

This positive mood about the economy did not carry over on the question of whether Iraq is headed in the right direction. Of the five provinces, only Diyala responded positively, with 60 percent responding that Iraq was headed in the right direction. The other provinces indicated the country was headed in the wrong direction: Anbar – 86 percent wrong direction, 10 percent right direction; Kirkuk – 57 percent wrong direction, 33 percent right direction; Salahhadin – 45 percent wrong direction, 35 percent right direction; and Ninawa – 47 percent wrong direction, 44 percent right direction. Diyala's relative optimism may be attributable to a decline in violence that occurred more recently compared to the rest of Iraq.

Basic Services and Security

Unlike the December 2010 Kurdistan region survey, in which the delivery of basic services was viewed as the biggest priority in the country as a whole, the plurality of respondents in the Northern Triangle survey (40 percent) ranked security as the single biggest problem facing the country as a whole. This is, however, an improvement from the IRI October 2010 national survey, in which 47 percent of respondents in the provinces of Anbar, Salahhadin and Diyala, and 63 percent in Ninawa and Kirkuk, listed security as the biggest problem.

When respondents were asked whether security in Iraq had gotten better or worse over the last year, there was progress in all the provinces except Anbar. Ninety percent of Diyala residents said that security had either become much better or somewhat better compared to only four percent who said somewhat worse or much worse. Seventy percent of Ninawa responded somewhat better or much better while 18 percent said somewhat worse or much worse. Forty-eight percent of Salahhadin answered positively while only 19 percent responded somewhat worse or much worse Kirkuk's sentiment was more evenly split, with 33 percent responding positively, 28 percent negatively and 39 percent saying the situation had stayed the same.

Anbar was the only province viewing security progress negatively, with 47 percent of respondents saying security in Iraq had gotten somewhat worse or much worse while only 40 percent believed it had improved. This marks a significant downturn from previous IRI surveys. In June 2010, 77 percent of Anbar residents said that the security situation had become better as opposed to only 23 percent who said that it had become worse; in October 2010, 66 percent said better to 24 percent who responded worse. This is a troubling indicator of a worsening security situation in Anbar.

When asked what is the single biggest problem facing their province, as opposed to the country as a whole, respondents were split among basic services, security, unemployment and other issues. The province most concerned about basic services was Kirkuk, with 54 percent. Residents of Anbar were the least concerned about basic services, out of the provinces surveyed. Only 25 percent of residents cited basic services as the single biggest problem there, while 37 percent of Anbar listed security.

Next, the survey asked respondents who they thought was responsible for the situation in their provinces. In all provinces, except Diyala, a plurality placed responsibility for electricity, security, unemployment and government corruption with Prime Minister Maliki. Kirkuk was particularly inclined to hold the Prime Minister responsible, with 85 percent listing him as responsible for electricity, 78 percent for security and 62 percent for government corruption. Wages and salaries were seen as the responsibility of the Iraqi parliament by a plurality in every province, while services like water, sewage, etc. were seen as the responsibility of the provincial councils in four of the five provinces.

Provincial Councils and Federalism

When asked whether their parliamentarians were listening to the needs of the people, every province surveyed except Salahhadin answered negatively: Kirkuk – 73 percent, Anbar – 70 percent, Diyala – 68 percent and Ninawa – 56 percent. Salahhadin was the only province to answer positively, with 55 percent. When asked a similar question with regards to their provincial councils, majorities in every province except Salahhadin answered negatively. Salahhadin was statistically split on the question, with 48 percent responding that the provincial council did not listen to the needs of the people and 45 percent responding that it did.

In this survey Iraqis continued the trend identified in earlier IRI polling of preferring a strong central government to a decentralized one, with some important exceptions. When asked if they would prefer a strong provincial council or a strong federal government, 52 percent said a strong federal government, with 41 percent preferring a strong provincial council. This preference toward a strong central government was a decline, however, from the October 2010 poll, in which the five provinces preferred a strong central government by 61 percent.

When asked if they agreed with the statement that most of Iraq's oil revenues should go to the central government, not the provinces, strong majorities in every province except Salahhadin answered in the affirmative. Yet, when asked if they were satisfied or dissatisfied with the central government's performance managing oil revenues, strong majorities answered negatively. Anbar exemplifies this contradiction, 64 percent in favor the central government getting most oil revenues, but 92 percent are dissatisfied with the central government's handling of those revenues.

Despite their preference for a strong central government, Iraqis felt strongly that the provincial councils should manage basic services, and furthermore were largely optimistic that the councils would improve conditions in the coming year. When asked if they support their provincial council handling basic services like water, sewage, electricity, garbage collection and road maintenance rather than the central government, large majorities responded in favor of the provincial councils: 93 percent in Salahaddin, 81 percent in Anbar, 70 percent in Kirkuk and 64 percent in Ninawa. Likewise, when asked if it is likely that their provincial council will improve conditions in terms of basic services, jobs and security, majorities in Salahhadin, Anbar, Kirkuk and Ninawa responded that it was likely.

The province of Diyala proved the exception, preferring the central government to handle basic services by 54 percent. When asked if they felt their provincial council would improve conditions in the province, 64 percent of Diyala residents responded not likely, and only 35 percent responded likely. When asked later in the survey how important it was that elections be held for local councils this year, 78 percent of Diyala residents responded very important, by far the most emphatic of the provinces surveyed, reinforcing a deep dissatisfaction with the performance of the provincial government there.

Article 140 and the Status of Kirkuk

In response to a question on how likely it is for tensions between Arabs and Kurds in the disputed territories to turn violent in the next year, majorities in every province except Kirkuk answered very likely or somewhat likely. In Kirkuk, however, 69 percent of respondents answered not very likely or not at all likely. As was first identified by IRI in its December 2009 poll, these sentiments transcend ethnicity or sect, with comparable majorities among Kurds, Sunnis and Shia responding similarly.

IRI asked residents of Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninawa and Salahhadin if they supported implementing Article 140 from the Iraqi constitution in their province. Article 140 is the article of the Iraqi constitution that allows provinces to vote to become, or join, semi-autonomous regions such as the Kurdistan region. Diyala and Salahhadin, both with small Kurdish and Turkmen populations, opposed implementation by large margins: 64 percent and 65 percent against, respectively. Kirkuk and Ninawa, with large Kurdish and Turkmen populations, both supported the implementation of Article 140: 49 percent in favor, 38 percent opposed in Kirkuk and 50 percent in favor and 33 percent opposed in Ninawa.

IRI asked a series of questions on whether respondents would respect various possible outcomes of a hypothetical Article 140 referendum in Kirkuk. When asked if they would respect the results of a referendum in which the residents of Kirkuk voted to join the Kurdistan region, only Kirkuk and Ninawa showed support. In Kirkuk, however, the results were within the margin of error, with only 44 percent responding in favor and 39 percent opposed. When asked if they would respect a referendum that voted for Kirkuk to become its own region, even larger majorities in Ninawa and Kirkuk replied positively: 74 percent of Kirkuk residents responded they would respect this result, while 64 percent of Ninawa residents said they would. Strong majorities in Anbar, Salahhadin and Diyala opposed both the option of Kirkuk joining the Kurdistan region, and of Kirkuk becoming its own region. The universally-preferred result of such a referendum would be if Kirkuk voted for the status quo, with between 69 percent of residents in Ninawa and 90 percent in Anbar responding that they would respect this result.

Source:http://www.iri.org/sites/default/files/2011%20June%2016%20IRI%20Iraqi%20Index,%20April%2013-18,%202011.pdf

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WEST ASIA

176-2. Trust In Civil Society Institutions:

NGOs (33%) Fail To Inspire Confidence while Religious Leaders (72%), Educational Institutions (69%) and Media (65%) Enjoy High Trust: GILANI POLL/GALLUP PAKISTAN

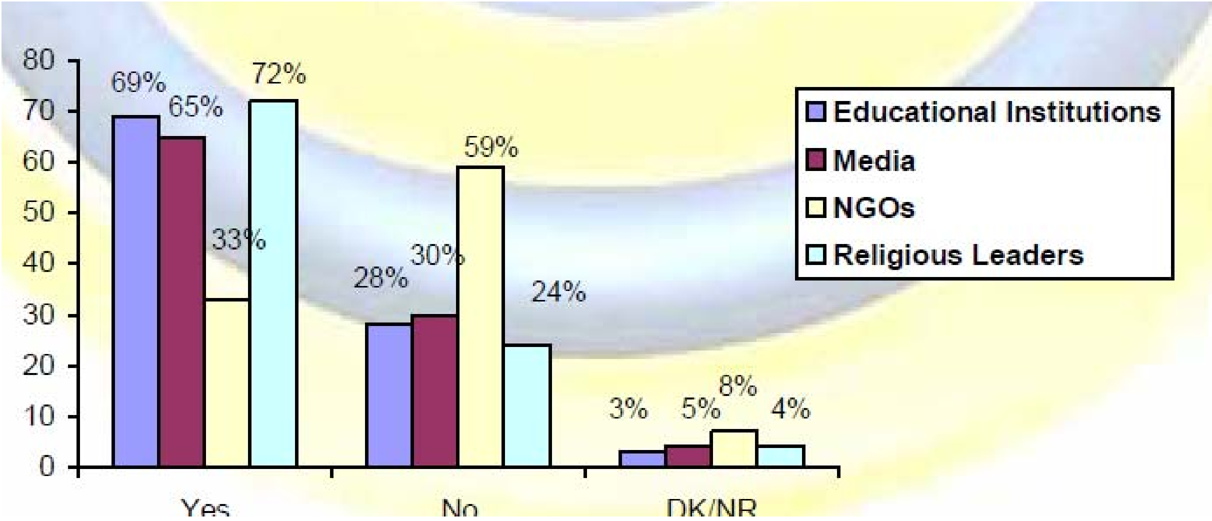
Islamabad, June 17, 2011

According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, only 33 % people say that they trust the NGO sector whereas a considerable majority expressed their trust in Religious Leaders, Educational Institutions and Media. Religious Leaders, Educational Institutions and Media were the most trusted civil society institutions enjoying the trust of 72%, 69% and 65% of the respondents respectively according to the survey.

In a survey, a nationally representative sample of men and women from across the four provinces were asked the following question: “These are some of the major institutions of Pakistan. Please tell us to what extent do you trust these institutions?” The findings of the survey suggest that NGOs are the least trusted sector with only 33 % saying that they had high trust in NGOs a lot whereas 59% replied they did not. Religious Leaders were the most trusted institution with 72 % people saying that they trusted them and only 24 % stating mistrust.

Educational Institutions were the second most trusted category with 69 % people saying they trusted them and 28 % replying in the negative. The results also indicate that the institution of Media has high trust with 65 % of respondents saying they trusted the media and only 30% saying they did not.

"To what extent do you trust these institutions?"



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 2703 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during May 2011. Error margin is estimated to be approximately + 2-3 per cent at 95% confidence level.

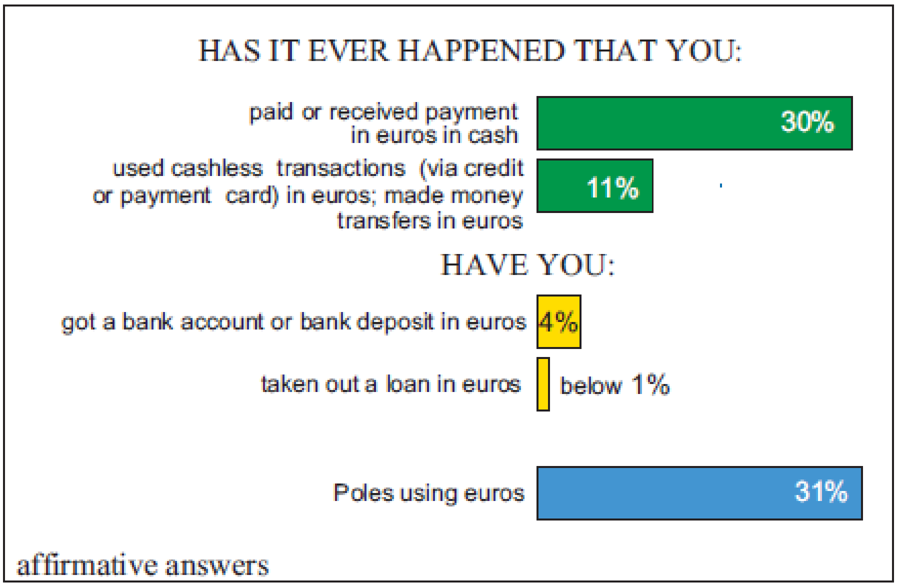
Source: http://gallup.com.pk/Polls/170611.pdf

EASTT EUROPE

176-3. The Introduction Of The Euro In Poland

The prospect of joining the eurozone has become rather more distant over the last two years. The date of introducing the euro in Poland is not only remote but also not precise. According to the Ministry of Finance, it is expected that the euro will be introduced between 2020 and 2021.

On joining the European Union, Poland agreed to ultimately introduce a common currency and this goal is still high on the Government's agenda. In order to achieve it, the Government wants to limit public debt and reduce budget deficit. Moreover, Poland has joined the Euro Plus Pact with the aim of strengthening the country's position and credibility in the European Union. Countries that signed the Pact are to cooperate more closely with each other in terms of economic policy in order to raise the competitiveness of their respective economies. All in all, a third of adult Poles (31%) have used the euro. Most of them (30%) declare they paid or received payment in this currency in cash. One in nine (11%) say they used cashless transactions in euros and 4% claim they have a bank account or deposit in this currency. Only a few respondents declare (less than 1%) they took out a loan in euros.



The euro is used prevailingly by the young: 46% of people aged 18 to 24 and 50% of people between 25 and 34 years of age use this currency. Euro users come from cities with more than half a million inhabitants (46%) and they are mainly well educated and well earning people (57% of respondents with higher education and 54% of people with a monthly income of over 1500 zloty per head). In terms of social and professional groups, euro users belong to the management and intelligentsia (55%) and entrepreneurs (60% use the euro).

In 2002, nearly two thirds of Poles (64%) said that they supported substituting the Polish zloty with the euro.At that time, Poland was not yet a member of the European Union and most of the countries of the first fifteen member states of the European Union had already introduced the euro. However, after the accession to the EU, the support for joining the eurozone visibly fell. Between 2007 and 2008 the percentage of supporters and opponents was comparable. In the first quarter of 2009, after Slovakia joined the eurozone and when Poland was debating whether it was possible and sensible to introduce this currency, the support for substituting the Polish zloty with the euro increased up to 52% - 53%.As the economic crisis was growing in the world, the euro could have been perceived at that time as a more stable currency than the zloty, providing greater economic and financial security. In the last two years, the support for introducing the euro in Poland has been falling.

Presently, only a third of Poles would like to join the eurozone (32% - a 9 point fall in comparison to April 2010 and a 21 point fall in comparison to March 2009) and 60% are against it (an 11 point rise in comparison to a year ago and 22 point increase in comparison to 2009).

In the last year, people have started to perceive the potential consequences of joining the eurozone definitely less positively. Poles are increasingly anxious about the effects that the introduction of this currency might have on the economy. Presently, only slightly more than a third of adult Poles believe (35% - a 14 point fall since last year) that our country will benefit from joining the eurozone. The prevailing opinion is that the introduction of the euro will have detrimental effects (40% - an 11 point increase in comparison toApril 2010).

Since last year, fears about the negative effects of introducing the euro for an average Pole have grown. The majority of respondents believe (60% - a 14 point increase in comparison to last year) that they will lose after introducing the euro and only 23% of respondents (a 7 percent fall) think they will benefit from it.

At present, Poland does not meet the criteria in the Maastricht Treaty for joining the eurozone. The most serious problem at the moment is the lack of stability in public finances which resulted in triggering the excessive deficit procedure with regard to Poland. According to the EU recommendations, Poland should limit its excessive deficit in public finances by the end of 2012 to 3% of GDP. The majority of Poles (74%) are aware that Poland does not meet the criteria for joining the eurozone. Only 9% think that the country is ready for introducing the euro.

Source: http://www.cbos.pl/PL/publikacje/public_opinion/2011/04_2011.pdf

176-4. Destanilization In Progress

While condemning the program in general, Russians support most of its statements. Respondents only oppose the ban on professions proposed by "destanilizators".

MOSCOW, May 17, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data describing the attitudes of Russians to the destanilization project.

Among the initiatives within the destanilization project most of Russians support the idea to provide the free access for researchers to the documents related to the burial places of victims of political repressions, declassifying documents on political repressions in the country (71%).Most of respondents also approve of the following ideas: reburial of the Lenin`s body (52%), setting up monuments to the victims of Stalinist repressions in the cities and rural area (51%), ban to name cities, streets, squares after the people who were responsible for repressions, giving people an opportunity to appeal any legal act of the Stalin`s time to recognize it invalid (48% for each), sending the profit of the enterprises constructed with the use of the prisoners to the foundation supporting rehabilitated citizens (47%), and creating new school resources on national history free of the myths of the Stalinist epoch (44%).

Russians express negative attitudes to two measures such as the revision of commemorative dates and professional holidays not to be focused solely on soviet history, and dismissal of state officials who publicly deny the crimes of the Stalinist regime (50% for each).

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%.

Which of the following statements would you rather support and which ones-not?
(close-ended question, one answer per each position)

	Rather support	*Rather not support*	*Hard to tell*
To provide the free access for researchers to all the documents related to the burial places of victims of terror; to declassify the documents related to political repressions in the country	**71**	**16**	**14**
Reburial of the Lenin`s body in the ordinary cemetery	**52**	**30**	**18**
To set up monuments to victims of political repressions in all big cities and rural area	**51**	**32**	**17**

To ban naming cities, streets, squares after the people responsible for mass repressions and other crimes of the Stalinist regime against rights and freedoms of people	**48**	**34**	**18**
Give people an opportunity to appeal against any legal act of the Stalin`s time to recognize it invalid	**48**	**23**	**29**
To send part of profit of enterprises constructed with the use of the prisoners` labor to the foundation supporting the rehabilitated citizens	**47**	**25**	**28**
To create new school resources on national history free of the myths of the Stalin`s time, which would contain clear moral, legal and political assessment of Stalinism as pernicious phenomenon	**44**	**33**	**24**
To revise the official commemorative dates and professional holidays not to be focused solely on the soviet history. For example, the day of Russian militia is proposed to be celebrated not in November, but in June, in the honor of the Decree of Peter I to establish police	**26**	**50**	**24**
To dismiss those state officials who publicly deny the crimes of the Stalinist regime	**22**	**50**	**28**

***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/111616.html

176-5. 2011 Government Report To State Duma: Assessment By Russians

Russians liked the speech of the prime-minister Vladimir Putin. However, good ideas remain empty words, according to more Russians.

MOSCOW, May 16, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data describing the assessment of Russians of the annual report of the prime-minister Vladimir Putin to the State Duma.

The report of Putin to the State Duma attracted the attention of one-quarter of Russians; 7% listened to his speech very attentively, 18% knew about it from the news. Those who put most attention to it are supporters of CPRF party (37%) and Fair Russia party (38%). As before, 56% did not pay attention to the speech of the prime-minister - they are mainly Russians younger than 35 (59%).

In general, the speech has made positive impression on the audience:32% liked the speech; other 6% say everything that was said was right; the speech gave hope to 4%. Negative attitudes were rarer expressed: 11% give negative assessment, other 8% mention that nothing was done, 6% do not believe in what was said.

As a year ago, Russians liked best the ideas of social support: increase of salaries for budget workers, increase of pensions (11%), increase in living standards (5%), allocating more money to health care (4%), and care about children (2%). Besides, Russians pointed out economic problems such as taking Russia out of crisis (5%), support for agriculture (4%), inflation (3%), gas prices decline (1%). Russians supported what Putin said about the fight against corruption (4%), innovation and increased attention to army (2% for each).

Respondents were hard to name the issues mentioned be the prime-minister that they did not like (61%); other one-quarter of respondents reported that there were no such topics. The rest of respondents point out the lack of actual actions (9%), ways to solve the issues (6%) and the lack of attention to the retired persons (3%). To compare, a year ago Russians` main claim was lack of attention to social sphere (4%).

Asked what they personally want to ask Putin about most of respondents, as before, pointed out social and economic issues: indexation of pensions and payments (16%), inflation (6%), end of crisis (6%), social payments (5%), unemployment (3%), increased housing and community tariffs (4%), development of industry and agriculture (4%), anti-crisis measures (1%). Respondents are also worried about such issues as youth policies, education reforms (4% for each), affordable healthcare and housing (2% for each), law enforcement bodies` reforming (1%), flow of immigrants (1%), road construction and repair (1%). One of the actual problems is corruption (4%). One percent of respondents would like to know if Putin is planning to stand in presidential elections.

The speech of the prime-minister gave hope and inspiration to one-third of Russians (32% versus 40% a year ago) - they are basically Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (47%), 45-59-year-old Russians (36%) and United Russia party supporters (53%). Compared to the previous year, more Russians mark the ideas expressed by Putin were right, however they point out the absence of the real progress (from 42 to 52%). Those who think so are respondents younger than 35 (57-58%) and Fair Russia party adherents (70%). Those who do not agree with the statements of Putin (5%) and those who say these are not interested in these statements (4%) are in the minority.

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 30 April - 1 May, 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 watch the speech of the prime-minister Vladimir Putin? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	2009	**2010**	**2011**
Yes, I listened to his speech very attentively	**9**	**6**	**7**
I did not watch the speech attentively; I knew about itfrom the news	**19**	**18**	**18**
No, I did not watch the Putin`s speech	**54**	**56**	**56**
I am not interested in politics; I do not care about that	**16**	**19**	**18**
Hard to tell	**1**	**2**	**1**

What impression did the speech make on you?

(open-ended question, record everything respondent mention, % of those who watched the speech and knew about it from the news)	
Positive; I liked it, I support his ideas	**32**
He speaks good and right but nothing is being done	**8**
It inspired me, it gave hope to me	**4**
I do not believe in what he said	**6**
Negative	**11**
Everything mentioned by Putin was right	**6**
Well done! He is the only one who does his best	**3**
He summarized a year of work	**2**
I do not care about that	**2**
Other	**1**
Hard to tell	**27**

If you watched the speech of Putin, which ideas and proposals did you like and remember? *(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who watched the speech or knew about it from the news)*	
	2011
Increase of salaries for budget workers	**11**
Paying attention to army	**2**
All his ideas	**4**
Allocating more money to health care	**4**
All that was said is empty words	**1**
Care about children and youth	**2**
Fight against corruption	**4**
Nanotechnologies and innovations	**2**
About ways out of crisis	**5**
About inflation	**3**
Support of agriculture	**4**
Gas prices decline	**1**
Increase of living standards, social protection	**5**

None	**17**
Other	**2**
Hard to tell	**45**

Which statements did not you like and remember? *(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who watched the speech or knew about it from the news)*

	2011
He speaks too much, but he does nothing	**9**
No details, no figures, no ways how to solve issues	**6**
Slight pension increase will not help the retired persons live better	**3**
None	**23**
Hard to tell	**61**

How do you generally assess the Putin`s speech?
(close-ended question, one answer % of those who those who watched V.Putin`s speech and knew about it fr

	2009	**2010**	**2**
It gives me a sense of hope and inspiration	**40**	**40**	**3**
Right thoughts and proposals were expressed but they were discussed before and no real changes were made	**42**	**42**	**5**
I do not agree with most of ideas expressed by the prime-minister	**4**	**7**	**5**
Everything the prime-minister was talking about is not interesting to me	**2**	**4**	**4**
Hard to tell	**12**	**7**	**7**

Would you personally like to ask Putin a question? If yes, what would you ask him about? Could you name the issue you would like to discuss with the prime-minister?
(open-ended question, not more than three answers)

Inflation and indexation of pensions and salaries	**16**
Development of industry and agriculture	**4**
Anti-crisis measures	**1**
When will we live better and when will the crisis be over (when the common people will be paid attention)	**6**
Youth policy	**4**
Education Reform	**4**
Unemployment	**3**

Affordable free healthcare	**2**
Increase of housing and community services` tariffs	**4**
Affordable housing	**5**
Whether he stands in the presidential elections	**1**
Social payments	**5**
When the corruption will be defeated	**4**
Road construction and repair	**1**
Reforms of law enforcement bodies	**1**
When the prices will stop rising	**6**
Fight against drug and alcohol addiction	**1**
Flow of immigrants	**1**
When the stability and order will be set, and everyone will fulfill their d uties	**4**
None; there is no questions I would like to ask	**27**
Other	**3**
Hard to tell	**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/111615.html

176-6. Salary, Social Package And Prestige: What Is Important When Choosing Job?

When searching for job, Russians are worried about the amount of salary and social guarantees rather than labor intensity and good relationship with colleagues.

MOSCOW, May 12, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Centre (VCIOM) presents the data describing what is important for Russians when searching for job.

The main factor for Russians when choosing job is the amount of salary (72%), followed by social guarantees according to the law; however the second factor is getting less important for Russians (from 37% in 2007 to 30% this year). Other important things for Russians are professional self-realization (23% versus 28% four years ago) and convenient schedule (23%).

Less important things for Russians are workplace conditions (17%), additional "social package", official job (16% for each), and prestige (14%). Least important factors are pension contributions (8%), law intensity of labor (6%), good relationship with colleagues and bosses (5%).

The amount of salary is particularly important for Russians who are hired permanently (77%). The same share of respondents pay attention to convenient schedule (25%). Those who have a work based on oral agreement pay attention to the official character of job (31%). The professional self-realization is important for entrepreneurs (36%).

Respondents with high level of education appreciate professional self-realization (39%) rather than prestige (17%). Those who have low level of education prize the amount of salary (83%) and social guarantees (35%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 23-24 April, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

If you had to search for a job, what would you pay attention to?
(close-ended question, not more than three answers, % of those who work)

	2004	**2007**	**2009**	**2011**
Amount of salary	74	74	**74**	**72**
Social guarantees stipulated by the law (paid vacations, sick days, different payments, compensation payments)	33	37	**33**	**30**
Convenient schedule, convenient location	21	22	**25**	**23**
Professional self-realization (match between job and qualification, professional career)	23	28	**26**	**23**
Good workplace conditions (workplace and equipment)	18	22	**21**	**17**
Additional "social package" (hospital, vouchers, kindergarten, housing)	14	21	**19**	**16**
Official job (labor contract or admission to work by order)	9	11	**13**	**16**
Prestige	16	21	**14**	**14**
Pension contributions	14	9	**9**	**8**
The work that would not require excessive efforts or high labor intensity	9	8	**7**	**6**
Opportunity to set good relationship with colleagues and b osses	6	5	**7**	**5**
Hard to tell	2	1	**1**	**4**

***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/111608.html

176-7. 1000 Days Before Olympics

Russians believe that Russia will organize the Olympic Games properly and will repeat the success of the previous Olympic Games` organizers in the number of gold medals won.

MOSCOW, May 11, 2011. In anticipation of the 1000-day countdown to the Winter Olympics which will be held in 2014 in Sochi Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data describing the attitudes of Russians towards the following issues: whether Russia is capable of hosting the Olympics in Sochi and become a leader in the number of gold medals won.

As a year ago, the overwhelming majority of Russians are confident that Russia will successfully hold the Olympics; and the share of those who think so has even increased (89%, in 2010 - 84%). Only 6% doubt that Russia will successfully conduct the Olympic Games.

Those who confident most in Russia`s potential to organize the Sochi Olympics are Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (94%) and respondents with high level of education (92%); those who are least confident are respondents with low level of education (82%).

57% of Russians believe that Russia will repeat the success of the previous organizers of the Olympic Games which were the leaders in the number of the gold medals won. Those who think so are residents of middle cities (66%). At the same time, the share of those who have doubts about Russia` ability to hold the first place in the number of gold medals has slightly increased (from 21 to 26%). Skeptical views are expressed by Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (41%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 30 April - 1 May, 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, will Russia be able to organize the Sochi Olympics in 2014 properly? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	2010	**2011**
Definitely, yes	**37**	**41**
Rather yes	**47**	**48**
Rather no	**6**	**5**
Definitely no	**1**	**1**
Hard to tell	**8**	**5**

In your opinion, will Russia be able to organize the Sochi Olympics in 2014 properly? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	Total respondents	**Elementary, or lower, incomplete secondary education**	**Secondary (school, technical college)**	**Secondary special (college)**	**Incomplete higher (not less than 3 years), higher**
Definitely, yes	**41**	34	45	37	43

Rather yes	**48**	48	45	51	49
Rather no	**5**	5	5	6	4
Definitely no	**1**	1	1	1	1
Hard to tell	**5**	12	4	5	4

In your opinion, will Russia be able to repeat the success of the previous organizers of the Olympics (for example, Canada, China) whose teams were the unconditional leaders in the number of gold medals they won?

(close-ended question, one answer)

	2010	**2011**
Definitely yes	**19**	**20**
Rather yes	**42**	**37**
Rather no	**17**	**22**
Definitely no	**4**	**4**
Hard to tell	**18**	**16**

In your opinion, will Russia be able to repeat the success of the previous organizers of the Olympics (for example, Canada, China) whose teams were the unconditional leaders in the number of gold medals they won?

(close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	**Moscow and St.Petersburg**	**More than500thousand**	**100 - 500thousand**	**Less than 100thousand**	**Rural area**
Definitely yes	**20**	13	16	28	25	14
Rather yes	**37**	26	46	38	36	36
Rather no	**22**	36	18	14	19	29
Definitely no	**4**	5	4	8	4	2
Hard to tell	**16**	20	16	12	16	19

__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/111607.html

176-8. Drugs In Schools: Will Testing Help?

83% of Russians support the idea to launch school drug testing.

MOSCOW. May 10, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research center (VCIOM presents the data describing whether Russians support school drug testing or not.

The overwhelming majority of Russians support school drug testing (83%): 57% - definitely support, 26% - rather support. Only 7% of respondents are against the idea. Every tenth respondent were hard to answer the question.

The biggest number of respondents in favor of the initiative are among respondents aged 35 - 59 (86%). They are supported by those respondents who have school-age children (87% versus 79% of those who do not have minor children). Among those who oppose the initiative are Russians with high level of education (9%), and metropolitan residents (10%).

The main reasons for supporting the idea is common positive assessment (31%), as well as a possibility to detect and prevent drug abuse at an early stage (23%). Respondents also mention control over children (10%) and their opinion that school is one of the places of drug distribution (7%)**.** Every twentieth respondent believe that this measure will help parents to keep their children from drugs.

Those opposing school drug testing report violation of human rights (31%) and assess this measure as being ineffective (23%). Nine percent of Russians think it would traumatize children. Six percent of respondents point out that the number of drug addicts in school is not so big to conduct general testing. Other 6% are worried about possible abuse.

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on 26-27 February, 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 personally support or oppose school drug testing?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	**Aged 18-24**	**Aged 25-34**	**Aged 35-44**	**Aged 45-59**	**n**
Definitely support	**57**	51	55	62	59	
Rather support	**26**	29	26	24	27	
Rather not support	**5**	8	6	4	3	
Definitely oppose	**2**	1	4	1	2	
Hard to tell	**10**	11	9	7	9	

Do you personally support or oppose school drug testing?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	**Those who have minor children**	**Those who do not have minor children**
Definitely support	**57**	62	53

Rather support	**26**	25	26
Rather not support	**5**	4	7
Definitely oppose	**2**	1	2
Hard to tell	**10**	8	12

Why do you support school drug testing? *(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who positively assess testing)*	
General positive assessment	**31**
Detecting and preventing drug addiction at early stages	**23**
Control over children; children will be afraid that someone will know that they tried drugs	**10**
School is one of the places of drug distribution; drug abuse has got "younger"	**7**
It will help parents keep their children from drugs	**5**
Caring for the future of the country/nation/generation	**5**
I am worried about my children, grandchildren	**2**
Detect those who disseminate drugs	**2**
Detect and record drug addicts	**1**
Other	**1**
Hard to tell	**17**
Why do you oppose school drug testing? *(open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who negatively assess testing)*	
Violation of human rights	**31**
Ineffective	**23**
Traumatize children	**9**
Possible abuse; use of data by corrupted officials	**6**
The number of drug addict is not so big to conduct general testing	**6**
Other	**4**
Hard to tell	**27**

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/111594.html

WEST EUROPE

176-9. Londoners Wouldn't Want To Live Anywhere Else

15 June 2011

New online research from YouGov's London Omnibus reveals that Londoners believe house/rental prices do not represent good value for money. However, despite this they would not want to live anywhere else in the UK.

68% of London homeowners disagree with the statement 'House prices in London represent good value for money'. Interestingly, a higher proportion of female homeowners (76%) disagreed with this statement. Just 58% of male homeowners shared the same sentiment.

Similarly, nearly three quarters of renters in London (74%) disagree with the statement 'The cost of renting in London represents good value for money'. Renters who worked full time were most disgruntled as 80% chose to disagree with the aforementioned statement.

However, over half of homeowners and renters in London (54% and 52% respectively) agree with the statement 'At the moment, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the UK'.

Notes to editors:

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1228 London adults. Fieldwork was undertaken 7th June – 9th June 2011. The survey was carried out online. YouGov's London Omnibus interviews London adults aged 18+ twice weekly with results in 48 hours.

Source:http://www.yougov.co.uk/corporate/pdf/YG-press-LondonersWontLiveAnywhereElse.pdf

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176-10. FIFA's Public Perception Fails To Improve

13 June 2011

SportsIndex research shows that the public's perception of FIFA fails to improve as Corporate Reputation and Buzz scores continue to drop.

YouGov/SMG Insight SportsIndex is a daily measure of perception among the public, allowing 7 key metrics (Buzz, General Impression, Corporate Reputation, Recommendation, Customer Support, Value and Quality) to be accurately tracked across 50 sporting events covering 17 sports simultaneously.

The public's negative reaction to the FIFA scandal, which first emerged May 10, has seen no improvement as perception scores for the FIFA World Cup 2014 brand continue to drop. The public's reaction has been so pronounced it is comparable to reactions towards the Kraft brand in 2010, when Cadbury was acquired amidst widespread disapproval and large scale job losses were announced. Both brands saw their Buzz *(the % of respondents who report hearing positive news less the % who report hearing negative news)* scores fall; Kraft by 31 and FIFA World Cup 2014 by 34. Corporate Reputation *(the % of respondents who think the brand has a good reputation less the % thinking it has a poor reputation)* scores followed suit; Kraft by 26 and FIFA World Cup 2014 by 22.

At the lowest point for both brands, 92% of people had heard something negative about Kraft or FIFA World Cup 2014.

Frank Saez, Managing Director for SMG Insight commented on the findings, "*Whilst none of FIFA's key sponsors have seen a fall in public perception of their brands, it is interesting that perceptions of the FIFA World Cup, to which they've poured substantial sums of revenue over the last five years, has fallen in the past few weeks. FIFA sponsors will be concerned as to whether long term perceptions of the FIFA World Cup could impact on their brands*".

A year after the takeover, Kraft's current average Buzz score is -6 and its Corporate Reputation score is -3, both 7 points down from pre-Cadbury takeover levels. However, we will have to wait and see whether FIFA can gain positive public perception and recover or not.
Source:http://www.yougov.co.uk/corporate/pdf/YG-press-FIFAPublicPerceptionFailsToImprove.pdf

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176-11. Economy Remains The Number One Issue, With Concern About Unemployment, Inflation And Prices Creeping Up

- **Concern about the NHS remains at three-year high**
- **Increase in concern about race relations/ immigration and crime this month**

The June Economist/Ipsos MORI Issues Index shows that around half of the British public (51%) think the economy is one of the most important issues facing Britain today. This is the lowest level of concern about this issue since February 2010. Just under three in ten (28%) are concerned about unemployment, a proportion that has changed little since 2009. Concern about inflation and prices has increased three points this month to 14%.

Although the economy still clearly dominates the agenda (as it has done for the best part of three years), other domestic issues appear to be slowly starting to increase in importance including the NHS, race relations/ immigration and crime.

As last month, a quarter of the public (26%) are concerned about the NHS. Interviews were conducted prior to the NHS Future Forum report and the government's latest announcements; the impact of recent developments – whether to further increase worries or reassure people – will be interesting to observe next month.

Three in ten (31%) mention race relations/immigration as an issue facing the country, an increase of five percentage points since last month. Concern about crime has also risen five points to 22%, most likely in reflection of the debate about sentencing earlier this month.

Technical note

Ipsos MORI's Issues Index is conducted monthly and provides an overview of the key issues concerning the country. Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 972 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. The questions are spontaneous - i.e. respondents are not prompted with any answers. Ipsos MORI's Capibus vehicle was used for this survey. Interviews were conducted face-to-face in-home between 3rd –9th June 2011 at 162 sampling points across Great Britain. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

Source: http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2814/EconomistIpsos-MORI-Issues-Index-June-2011.aspx

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176-12. Young People, Alcohol And Influences

A study of young people and their relationship with alcohol

Published:17 June 2011

Fieldwork: February - May 2009

A major survey of early teen drinking patterns in England has found that drinking escalates to a worrying extent during these years. The research, conducted by Ipsos MORI for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, also finds that family and friends have a strong influence on teenagers' drinking patterns, and are stronger influences than some other factors – such as individual well-being, celebrity figures and the media.

The detailed survey of 5,700 teenagers looked at the drinking habits of students in years 9 (aged 13–14) and 11 (aged 15–16). The study found that around seven in ten students in year 9, and nine out of ten students in year 11, had drunk alcohol, the majority claiming to have had their first drink by the time they were 13. Around one in five students had been drunk multiple times by the time they reached 14; this number leapt to around half of students by age 16.

Pamela Bremner from Ipsos MORI said:

"For the first time in the UK, this study ranks what most influences young people's drinking behaviour. It found that the behaviour of friends and family is a strong influential factor in determining a young person's relationship with alcohol."

Teenagers' friends have a significant impact on drinking behaviour. The odds of a teenager drinking to excess more than double if they spend more than two evenings a week with friends. Spending every evening with friends multiplies the odds of excessive drinking more than four times.

Parents have a particularly strong impact on their children's behaviour with alcohol. Levels of parental supervision influence behaviour: for example, the odds of a teenager having ever had an alcoholic drink are greater if their parents do not know where they are on a Saturday evening or if they allow their child to watch 18-rated films unsupervised. Parents' own drinking habits also have an impact. The odds of a teenager getting drunk multiple times is twice as great if they have seen their parents drunk, even if only a few times, as those teenagers who have never seen their parents drunk. Ease of access to alcohol was also an important influencing factor on current drinking and drunkenness.

However, researchers found mixed messages about the ideal age and method of introducing teenagers to alcohol. In general terms, those introduced to alcohol when very young had greater odds of having had a drink recently and of having been drunk multiple times, but there were differences in the pattern for young people of different ages.

Claire Turner, Programme Manager for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, said:

"This research shows that parents can have more influence on their teenagers' behaviour than perhaps many assumed. Both what parents say, and how they behave, have a strong impact on their teenagers drinking, drinking regularly, and drinking to excess."

Technical note

Ipsos MORI conducted a survey using self-completion questionnaires with a representative sample of 3,327 year 9 students and 2,438 year 11 students in schools in England. Fieldwork was conducted over the period February to May 2009. Data is weighted to match the profile of the population. Data was statistically modelled using binary logistic regression to test the influence of factors on drinking behaviour.

Source:http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2813/Young-people-alcohol-and-influences.aspx

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NORTH AMERICA

176-13. Obama Approval Rally Largely Over

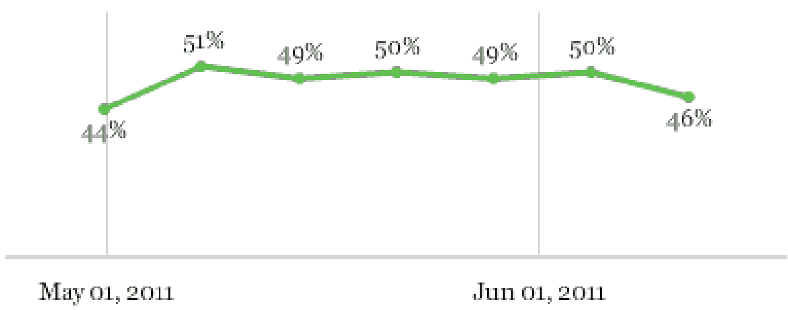
Averaged 46% last week after averaging 50% for much of May

June 15, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- President Obama's job approval rating averaged 46% for the week ending June 12, a significant decline from his weekly averages for most of May and nearly back to the level before Osama bin Laden's death on May 1.

President Obama's Weekly Job Approval Averages

Gallup Daily tracking



GALLUP

Thus, it appears the sustained rally in support for the president after the death of the Sept. 11 terror mastermind is largely over. The drop in Obama's approval rating coincides with an increase in Americans' pessimism about the economy. Economic confidence also increased after bin Laden's death but began to decline early this month, perhaps due to reports of anemic job growth and concerns about the slow pace of economic recovery.

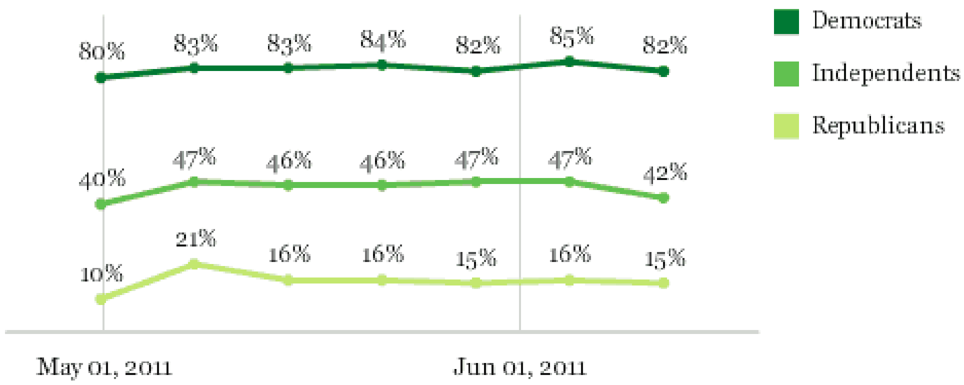
Gallup polling in mid-May found that the rally in support for Obama extended to his approval ratings for handling terrorism and foreign affairs but not his economic approval ratings.

Independents' Ratings Down Most

Among partisan groups, independents' approval rating of Obama dropped the most in the past week, from 47% to 42%, with a smaller decline among Democrats. Republicans' approval of Obama spiked to 21% during the first week after bin Laden's death from 10% in late April, before falling back to the 15% range, where it has held since.

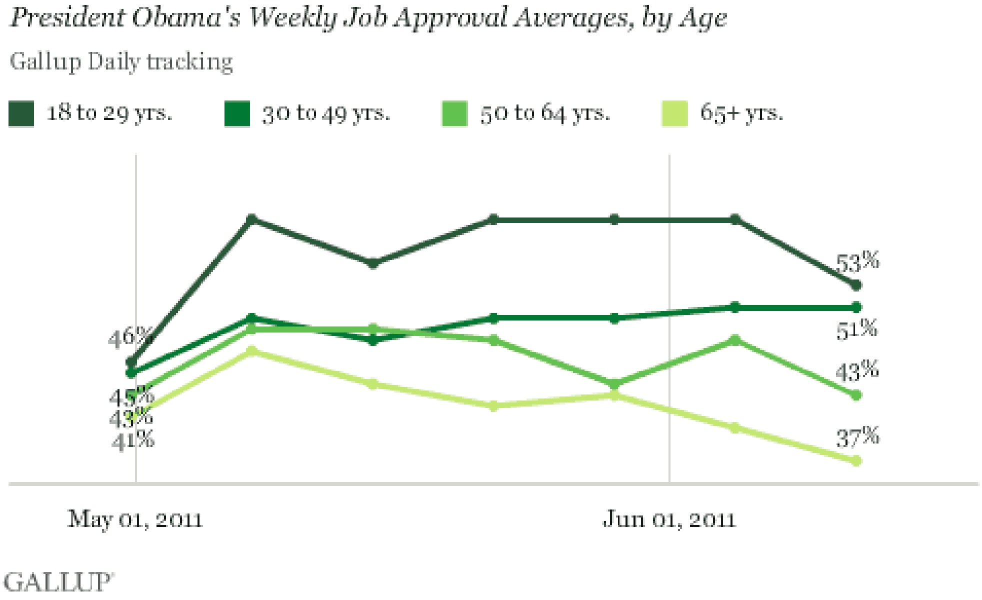
President Obama's Weekly Job Approval Averages, by Political Party

Gallup Daily tracking



GALLUP

Even though Obama's approval rally is largely over, some subgroups do give the president slightly higher ratings now than immediately before bin Laden's death. Republicans are one such group. Two others are Americans younger than 30 (46% then versus 53% now) and aged 30 to 49 (45% versus 51%). In contrast, senior citizens' approval rating of Obama, now at 37%, is lower than it was before the recent rally began.



Implications

Obama's approval rating has averaged below the majority level for most of the time since early 2010. The 50% approval mark is important because presidents with approval ratings above that level have always won re-election. Obama's approval rating generally held around the 50% mark in May, but that period of higher support seems over now.

There is still much time left for Obama to recover, with Election Day 17 months away. Indeed, at comparable points in their presidencies, Richard Nixon (48%), Ronald Reagan (45%), and Bill Clinton (47%) -- all of whom were re-elected -- had approval ratings similar to Obama's current 46%.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking June 6-12, 2011, with a random sample of 3,552 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 ±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 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/148046/Obama-Approval-Rally-Largely.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

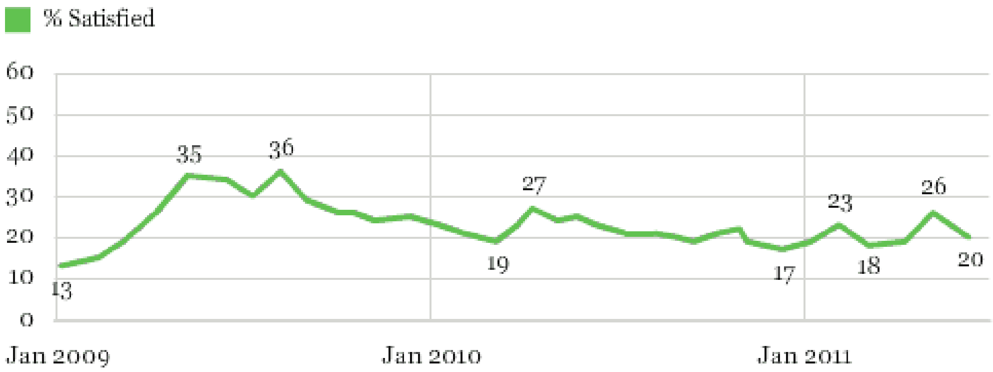
176-14. U.S. Satisfaction Dips to 20% in June

Economy continues to be named nation's top problem

June 16, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the country fell to 20% in early June from 26% at the start of May. Seventy-eight percent of Americans are now dissatisfied with the nation's direction, according to a June 9-12 Gallup poll.

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?



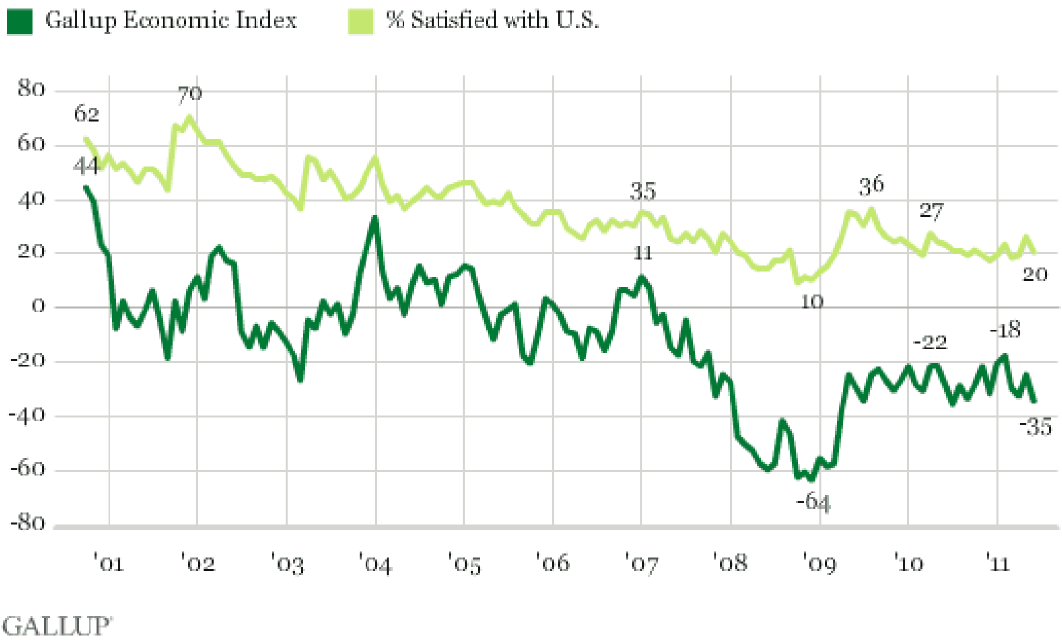
GALLUP'

The six-percentage-point decline in Americans' satisfaction with the country's direction mirrors a 10-point drop in Gallup's Economic Confidence Index over the past month, falling from -25 in Gallup Daily tracking for May 2-8 to -35 for the week ending June 12.

More generally, shifts in Americans' satisfaction with the country have closely paralleled changes in Gallup's Economic Confidence Index over the past decade, suggesting that economic perceptions have been a key determinant of Americans' broader view of the country's direction.

Both measures have been fairly flat since late 2009 except for minor monthly ups and downs. After falling in 2009 from 36% in August to 25% in December, U.S. satisfaction averaged 22% in 2010 and 21% thus far in 2011.

U.S. Satisfaction vs. Rating of Current Economic Conditions, Oct. 2000-June 2011



Economy, Jobs Remain Americans' Top Concerns

Despite declines in U.S. satisfaction and economic confidence in the past month, Americans' responses to Gallup's "Most Important Problem" question have not changed appreciably. Just over one-third in June, 36%, say the economy is the biggest problem facing the country, 24% cite unemployment or jobs, and 11% mention the federal budget deficit or debt. All of these are within a point or two of May's results.

Slightly more Americans now mention healthcare -- at 9%, up from 5% in May. However, at 3%, mentions of gas or fuel prices have dropped by more than half.

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

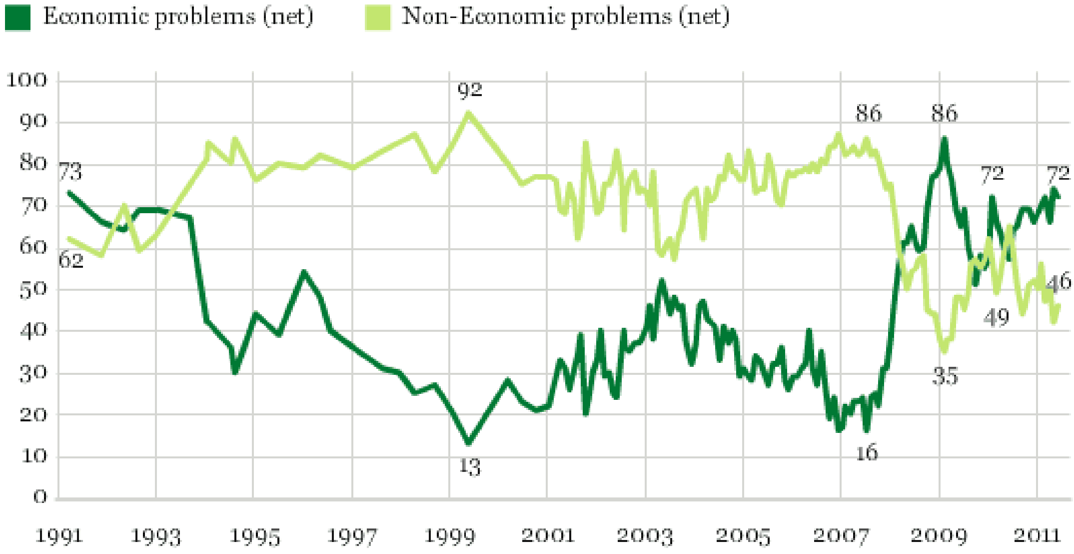
Issues mentioned by at least 3% of respondents

	May 5-8, 2011	June 9-12, 2011
	%	%
Economy in general	35	36
Unemployment	22	24
Federal budget deficit	12	11
Healthcare	5	9
Dissatisfaction with government	8	8
Lack of money	5	5
Immigration	4	5
Education	5	4
Moral/Ethical decline	4	4
Fuel/Oil prices	8	3
Wars/War (non-specific)/Fear of war	4	3

GALLUP

One reason these results may not have changed much over the past month is that, at 72%, the overall percentage of Americans naming at least one economic issue as the nation's most important problem is near the upper limit Gallup has recorded since 1991 when Gallup began compiling "net" economic and non-economic figures. The major exception to this is the few months following the Wall Street economic crisis in 2008 and 2009 when the figure was closer to 80%, reaching 86% in February 2009.

Summary of Most Important Problem Responses, 1991-2011



GALLUP

Bottom Line

Americans' negative view of the U.S. economy -- evident in both their top-of-mind responses when naming the nation's most important problem and in their economic ratings -- continues to serve as a damper on overall public satisfaction with the country, now registering a meager 20%. Slight increases in economic confidence occasionally boost satisfaction by a few points, as happened in May. However, the reverse is also true.

The recession officially ended in June 2009. However, economic growth is still sputtering, and with the labor and housing markets failing to achieve any sustained positive momentum, neither has Americans' satisfaction with the direction of the country.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 9-12, 2011, with a random sample of 1,020 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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.

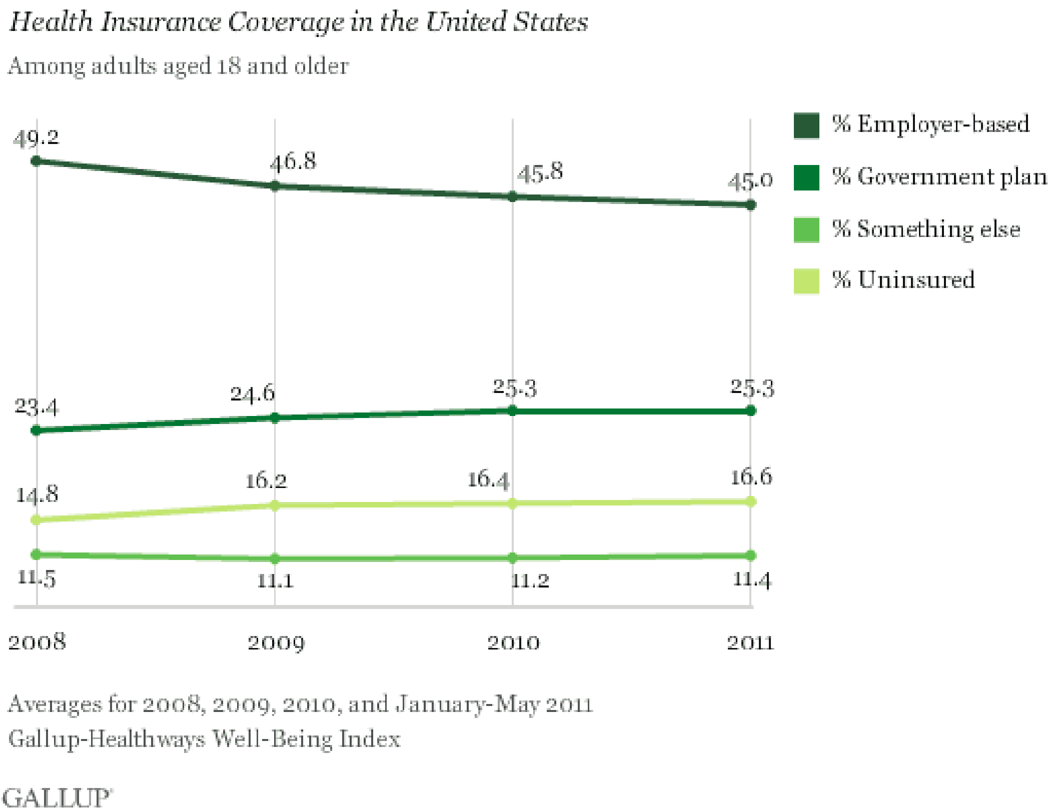
Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148070/Satisfaction-Dips-June.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

176-15. In U.S., Employer-Based Health Insurance Declines Further

Percentage of uninsured adults edges up slightly

June 17, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. **--** Forty-five percent of American adults reported getting their health insurance from an employer in January through May of this year. This is down from 45.8% in 2010, and has been steadily declining since Gallup and Healthways started tracking health insurance sources in 2008.



The 25.3% of adults who so far in 2011 say they have government health insurance -- Medicare, Medicaid, or military/veterans' benefits -- is unchanged from 2010, although still significantly higher than in 2009 and 2008. The percentage of uninsured Americans -- which initially increased in 2009 -- continues to creep up and is at 16.6% in 2011.

Blacks Among Most Likely to Report Decline in Employer-Based Health Coverage

Employer-based health insurance is down across all major demographic groups in 2011 compared with 2008. However, it has decreased the most among blacks (6.5 percentage points), those aged 27 to 35 (6.2 points), and those with an annual income between $36,000 and $89,999 (6.1 points).

Several other groups also showed above-average declines in employer-based health insurance, including Americans who are not college educated, those between the ages of 36 and 44, low-income adults, Southerners, Hispanics, and men.

High-income and highly educated Americans -- who have been the *most* likely to get their health insurance from an employer every year since 2008 -- were among the least likely to report a decline.

However, the two groups *least* likely to have employer-based health insurance -- seniors, who at the age of 65 qualify for Medicare, and 18- to 26-year-olds -- were also among the least affected by the drop-off in employer-based healthcare.

Employer-Based Health Insurance Coverage Among Various Demographic Groups

Ranked by largest to smallest decline in 2011 vs. 2008

Among adults aged 18 and older

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change, 2011 vs. 2008
Blacks	44.5	39.9	38.8	38.0	-6.5
Aged 27 to 35	56.8	53.7	52.7	50.6	-6.2
$36,000 to $89,999	65.6	63.9	61.1	59.6	-6.1
Technical/Vocational/Some college	51.4	48.5	47.0	45.9	-5.5
Aged 36 to 44	64.9	61.9	61.1	60.1	-4.8
High school graduate or less	35.2	31.7	31.1	30.5	-4.7
South	44.9	42.1	40.7	40.2	-4.7
Less than $36,000	28.6	25.9	24.7	24.1	-4.5
Hispanics	34.1	31.0	31.0	29.8	-4.4
Male	50.7	48.5	47.3	46.4	-4.3
NATIONAL ADULTS	49.2	46.8	45.8	45.0	-4.2
Female	47.8	45.2	44.4	43.6	-4.2
Midwest	53.1	50.3	49.9	49.0	-4.1
East	53.9	51.8	51.5	49.8	-4.0
Whites	52.2	50.3	49.2	48.4	-3.8
West	46.9	45.2	43.9	43.4	-3.5
Aged 45 to 64	62.4	60.2	59.3	59.0	-3.4
Postgraduate work or more	68.6	66.8	65.6	65.3	-3.3
College grad	66.6	65.2	63.6	63.6	-3.1
Aged 18 to 26	35.0	33.1	32.2	32.2	-2.8
$90,000 +	72.0	72.1	71.2	70.4	-1.6
Aged 65+	12.4	11.4	11.8	11.9	-0.5

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP'

Bottom Line

The issue of health insurance in the United States is far from fading into the background. Currently, 26 states are seeking to overturn the new healthcare law in court. At the same time, nearly every state is scrambling to figure out to how to fund and implement the law amid tough economic times and congressional lawmakers are debating the future of Medicare and Medicaid. The confluence of these issues makes who is covered and how they get their coverage more relevant than ever.

There are two major forces that are affecting where Americans get their health coverage: One is President Barack Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the other is high unemployment and underemployment. As only certain parts of the new healthcare law have been implemented, the latter issue appears to be the more influential one at this time, with steady declines since 2008 in the percentage of Americans who get their health insurance from an employer.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index survey Jan. 2-May 31, 2011, with a random sample of 147,291 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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/148079/Employer-Based-Health-Insurance-Declines-Further.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

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176-16. 2012 Voter Preferences for Obama, "Republican" Remain Close

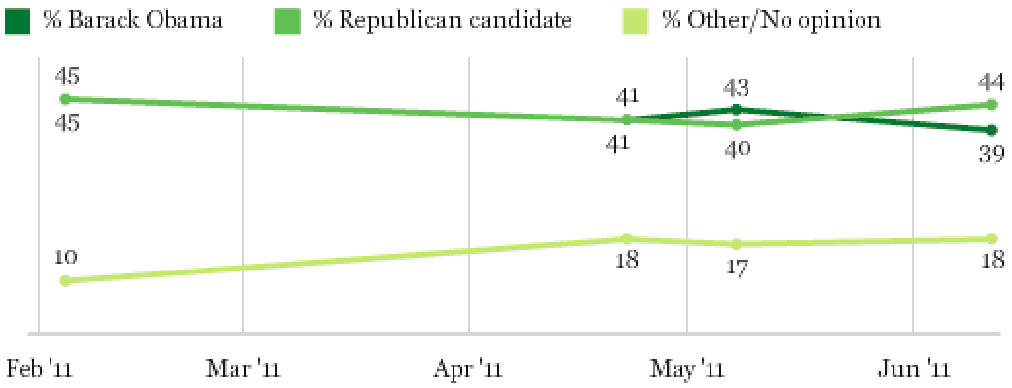
Forty-four percent prefer the Republican; 39%, Obama

June 16, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Forty-four percent of registered voters say they are more likely to vote for "the Republican Party's candidate" and 39% for Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election, according to Gallup's June update. The current five-percentage-point edge for the generic Republican is not a statistically significant lead, and neither side has held a meaningful lead at any point thus far in 2011.

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?



GALLUP

These results are based on a June 9-12 Gallup poll. The competitiveness of the race is underscored by the fact that Obama's re-election prospects on this measure did not appear much better in May, when his approval rating rose to the 50% level. Now that the rally in support for Obama is essentially over, the president appears to be in a slightly weaker position but still very competitive with his as-yet-unnamed opponent.

Voters' uncertainty about what they might do in the 2012 election is also apparent in the 18% who do not have a preference for Obama or the Republican at this point.

The poll finds Republican and Democratic registered voters supporting their party's candidate at similar levels, with independents breaking more for the Republican than for Obama. A substantial 26% of independent voters do not have a preference.

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

	All registered voters	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
	%	%	%	%
Obama	39	9	32	81
Republican candidate	44	81	42	7
Other/No opinion	18	10	26	13

Gallup, June 9-12, 2011

GALLUP

In Gallup's April and May updates on 2012 presidential election preferences, independent voters were evenly divided between Obama and the Republican candidate.

June Results Bear Little Relation to Election Outcome

Gallup asked similar generic ballot questions leading up to the 1992 and 2004 elections, when an incumbent president (George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, respectively) was seeking re-election but his likely opponent was unknown, given that there was not an obvious front-runner in the Democratic primaries in those years.

In June 1991 and June 2003, both Bushes held wide leads over their generic Democratic opponents. At those times, both presidents were quite popular, with the elder Bush averaging 72% approval in June 1991 and the younger Bush 62% approval in June 2003. Obama averaged 46% approval during the most recent week of Gallup Daily tracking.

Neither June generic ballot result was highly predictive of the eventual outcome; the elder Bush was defeated for re-election and the younger Bush won a narrow victory.

Generic Presidential Ballot in June Prior to an Election Year -- Based on Registered Voters

	%
June 12-18, 2003	
George W. Bush	51
"Democratic candidate"	39
June 13-16, 1991	
George H.W. Bush	53
"Democratic candidate"	30

GALLUP

In other presidential election cycles when an incumbent sought re-election, there were obvious front-runners for the other party's nomination, so Gallup typically pitted the incumbent against that opponent in trial heat questions. These results from June in the year prior to the presidential election were also not highly predictive of the outcomes. Ronald Reagan trailed Walter Mondale in 1983 and Bill Clinton faced a five-point deficit to Bob Dole in 1995, but each incumbent handily won the election the following year. In 1979, Reagan held a slim advantage over Jimmy Carter, with Reagan denying Carter a second term in the 1980 election.

Presidential Trial Heats in June Prior to an Election Year -- Based on Registered Voters

	%
June 5-6, 1995	
Bill Clinton	46
Bob Dole	51
June 10-13, 1983	
Ronald Reagan	41
Walter Mondale	50
June 22-25, 1979	
Jimmy Carter	45
Ronald Reagan	49

GALLUP

At the time those polls were conducted, Reagan (45%) and Clinton (47%) had approval ratings similar to Obama's current 46%. Carter's was significantly lower, at 29%, because of the summer 1979 energy crisis.

Implications

Presidential preferences long before an election can give an indication of the current political environment, but their relationship to the eventual election outcome shows how much that environment can change in the months leading up to the election. If the election were held today, Obama would appear to be in a tough fight for re-election with a fairly close division in registered-voter preferences between the president and a generic Republican.

Regardless of whom Republicans nominate, if national conditions improve, as was the case from 1983 to 1984 and 1995 to 1996, Obama could win re-election easily. If they do not, as occurred between 1979 and 1980, or get worse, as happened from 1991 to 1992, he could be vulnerable to defeat by whomever the Republicans nominate.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 9-12, 2011, with a random sample of 914 registered voters, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

For results based on the total sample of 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, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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/148076/2012-Voter-Preferences-Obama-Republican-Remain-Close.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

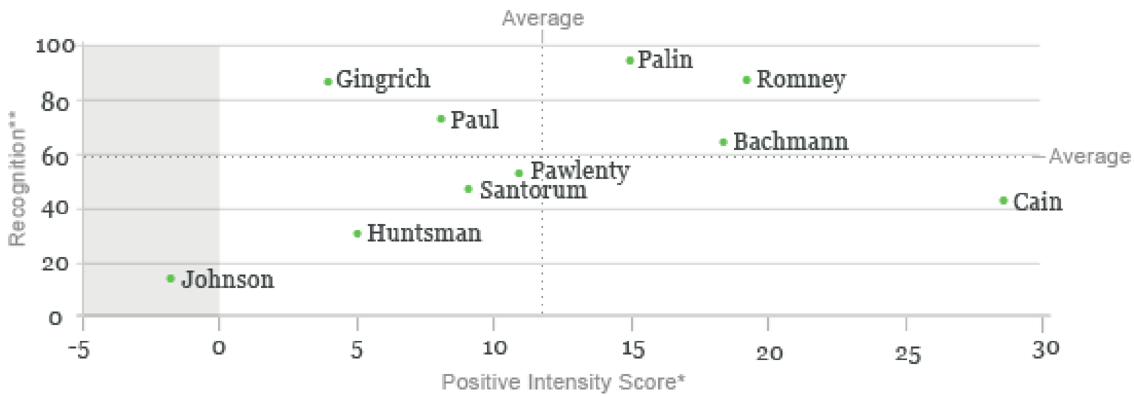
176-17. Bachmann Begins With Above-Average Recognition, Intensity

Ties Romney on positive intensity; both trail Cain

June 14, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, who formally announced her presidential candidacy at Monday night's Republican debate in New Hampshire, is currently recognized by 62% of Republicans nationwide. Her Positive Intensity Score of 18 essentially ties the better-known Mitt Romney's 19.

Potential GOP Candidate Images Among Republicans and Republican-Leaning Independents



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

** % who recognize candidate

May 30-June 12, 2011

GALLUP

Seven prospective GOP presidential nominees participated in the nationally televised debate at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire, including Rick Santorum, Tim Pawlenty, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, and Herman Cain, in addition to Bachmann and Romney. Any impact of the debate on Republicans' views of the candidates would not be reflected in Gallup's May 30-June 12 daily tracking update.

Bachmann's 62% recognition score is up from 52% earlier this year, but has not changed in recent weeks. Her current Positive Intensity Score is essentially tied as the second highest for the 10 candidates Gallup tracks, although down from her high of 23 in mid-May.

Romney has emerged in recent weeks as the GOP front-runner. His Positive Intensity Score among Republicans who recognize him has risen to 19, his highest since late March/early April. Romney's and Bachmann's Positive Intensity Scores remain well behind Herman Cain's 28, although Cain's 41% recognition is significantly lower than Bachmann's and Romney's. Romney is known by 84% of Republicans.

The other four participants in Monday night's debate face challenges in terms of either their name recognition or their ability to generate enthusiasm among Republicans.

Former Speaker of the House **Gingrich** is one of the three best-known Republicans measured, but he has not been able to reverse the recent slide in his image, most of which occurred before a number of members of his campaign staff quit en masse last week. For the second week in a row, the former speaker of the House's Positive Intensity Score is 4, the second lowest of any candidate measured, ahead of only former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson's -2.

Pawlenty and **Santorum** are recognized by 54% and 48% of Republicans, respectively. Both have similar, average to below-average Positive Intensity Scores -- Santorum's at 9 and Pawlenty's at 11. Neither politician yet shows signs of emerging as a significant challenger to Romney.

Paul, the 12-term congressman from Texas, has a 77% recognition score among Republicans, but a single-digit Positive Intensity Score of 8.

Three Republicans measured in Gallup's tracking -- Sarah Palin, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, and Johnson -- did not participate in Monday's debate.

Palin -- who is recognized by 95% of Republicans nationwide -- has not announced whether she is running for president. The former vice presidential candidate's Positive Intensity Score of 15 puts her in fourth place, behind Cain, Romney, and Bachmann.

Huntsman has campaigned in New Hampshire in recent weeks, but declined to participate in the debate. He is recognized by 32% of Republicans, low on an absolute basis, but up from 20% earlier this year. His Positive Intensity Score is 5.

Johnson did not meet the criteria established by the debate organizers to participate. He is the least recognized of any candidate measured, with the lowest overall Positive Intensity Score.

Bottom Line

The race for the GOP nomination is beginning to solidify, with seven officially announced candidates participating in the nationally televised debate in New Hampshire Monday night. Although the debate was a significant event for candidates, political pundits, and insiders, it will not be clear for a week or two whether it made any difference in the thinking of rank-and-file Republicans outside of the host state. There did not appear to be any major "bombshell" statements -- or misstatements -- at the debate, although lasting impressions of debates are often formed only after the news media coalesces on their one or two major post-debate talking points.

Romney at this juncture is in the strongest position -- given his high name recognition, rising Positive Intensity Score, and top position in Gallup's trial heat measure. Former businessman Cain still generates significantly more positive intensity among Republicans who know him than does Romney, but Cain has only a 41% recognition level and trails Romney and Palin in Republicans' current nominee preferences. Newly announced candidate Bachmann's Positive Intensity Score has fallen back slightly in recent weeks, but she still ranks near the top on this measure. Palin has the virtue of nearly universal name recognition, and while her Positive Intensity Score is above average, it trails Romney's.

None of the other Republicans have yet been able to mount significant positive momentum on Gallup's candidate measures. Pawlenty and Santorum face challenges with their recognition and Positive Intensity Scores. Paul is well known but his Positive Intensity Score remains in single digits. Gingrich is clearly way out of favor with Republicans, with the second lowest Positive Intensity Score measured.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking May 30-June 12, 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 10 potential candidates measured in this research were rotated among randomly selected samples of Republicans each night; over the 14-day period, each candidate was rated by a minimum of 1,500 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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/148043/Bachmann-Begins-Above-Average-Recognition-Intensity.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

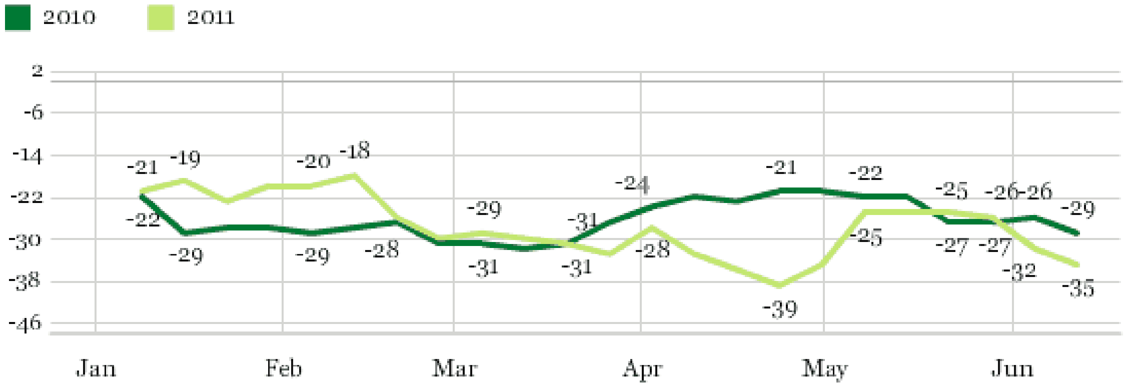
176-18. U.S. Economic Confidence Plunges in Early June

Economic confidence is now approaching 2011 weekly low

June 14, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- A sharp deterioration in the jobs outlook and six straight weeks of Wall Street declines sent Americans' confidence in the U.S. economy plunging to an average of -35 during the week ending June 12 -- a decline of nine percentage points from two weeks ago, and six points worse than it was in the same week a year ago. Economic confidence is now approaching a 2011 weekly low.

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; May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; and June 5 and 12. 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; May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; and June 6 and 13

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

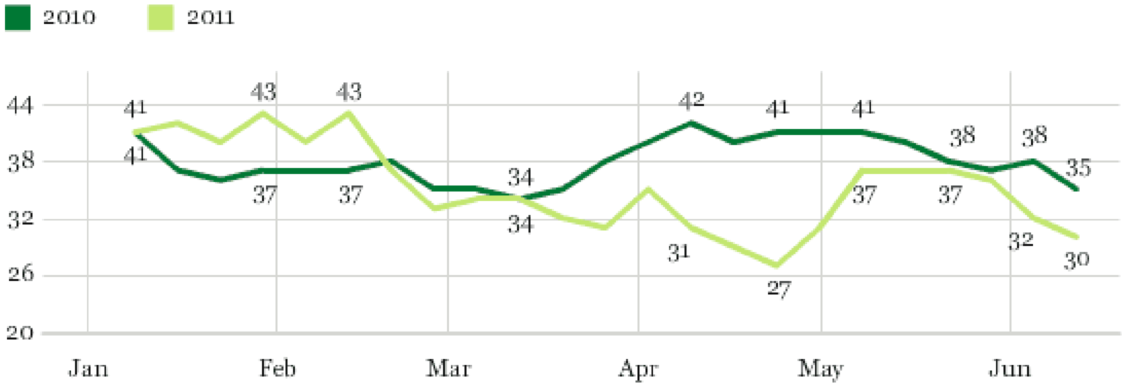
Economic confidence reached its peak so far this year at -18 in February and then generally declined through the week ending April 24, when it reached -39 as gas prices surged and economic activity slowed. Economic confidence improved to -25 during the week after Osama bin Laden's death and coincident with the "rally effect" in President Obama's approval rating. However, Americans have become more pessimistic about the economy in early June, with confidence reverting to late April levels.

Gallup's Economic Confidence Index consists of two items: one measuring Americans' views about whether the U.S. economy is "getting better" or "getting worse" and the second measuring Americans' ratings of current economic conditions as "excellent," "good," "only fair," or "poor." The early June plunge in weekly economic confidence is attributable to declines in both items.

Economic Expectations Worsening

Thirty percent of Americans said the U.S. economy is getting better last week -- down from 37% during most of May and near the low for the year. This is five points below the reading for the same 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; May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; and June 5 and 12. 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; May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; and June 6 and 13

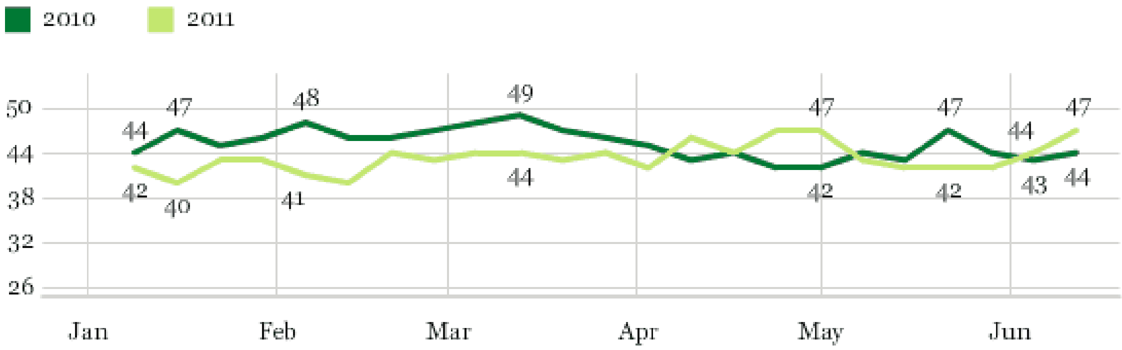
Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

"Poor" Ratings of Economy Match 2011 Low Point

Nearly half of Americans rated current economic conditions as poor last week -- matching the highest level for "poor" ratings so far in 2011. These ratings are three points worse than the previous week and three points lower than 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; May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; and June 5 and 12. 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; May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; and June 6 and 13

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

Implications

Gallup's Economic Confidence measure surged in early May, coincident with the bump in presidential approval after the death of bin Laden. However, the bin Laden "halo effect" on economic confidence has dissipated in early June, as economic news has become increasingly negative.

Unemployment and underemployment as measured by Gallup have shown no improvement compared with a year ago. In this regard, the government's job numbers have moved closer to Gallup's numbers as the U.S. unemployment rate as reported by the BLS worsened from 8.8% in March to 9.0% in April and 9.1% in May.

The sharp drop in economic confidence in early June is consistent with the deterioration in the jobs situation, six consecutive weeks of decline on Wall Street, and fears of a global economic slowdown. Even a recent decline in gas prices to $3.78 a gallon has not been enough to offset the decline in consumer optimism -- possibly in part because overall pump prices remain more than $1 per gallon higher than they were a year ago.

The key question going forward is whether the current economic soft patch is going to be modest and transitory or something more significant. That two out of three Americans say the U.S. economy is "getting worse" -- approaching the high for the year -- suggests many consumers may see something more significant coming in terms of a summer slowdown.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted on a weekly basis in 2011 from January to the week ending June 12 and in 2010 from January to the week ending June 13. For the week ending June 12, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, interviews were conducted with a random sample of 3,538 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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/148028/Economic-Confidence-Plunges-Early-June.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA

176-19. For Half of GOP, Nominee Pick Rests on Ability to Beat Obama

Two-thirds are satisfied with current list of Republicans presumed to be running

June 13, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Republicans nationwide are closely divided between those preferring that their party's 2012 presidential nominee be the person with the best chance of beating President Barack Obama and those favoring someone who shares their views on the issues they most care about. Given this choice, slightly more prioritize electability over issue agreement, 50% vs. 44%.

Republicans' Preferred Type of Presidential Candidate for 2012

Which type of candidate would you prefer to see the Republicans nominate for president in 2012 -- [a candidate who agrees with you on almost all of the issues you care about but does not have the best chance of beating Barack Obama, (or) a candidate who has the best chance of beating Barack Obama, but who does not agree with you on almost all of the issues you care about]?

	Has the best chance	Agrees on issues	No opinion
	%	%	%
All Republicans	50	44	6
Men	56	40	4
Women	43	49	9
Conservative Republicans	52	42	6
Liberal/Moderate Republicans	43	51	6

USA Today/Gallup, June 8-11, 2011
Based on 851 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

GALLUP

This sentiment appears to differ from what was the case leading up to the 2008 presidential election. Two Gallup polls conducted in late 2007 found the slight majority of Republicans saying issue agreement would be the more important factor to their vote, while about 4 in 10 chose electability.

The June 8-11, 2011, *USA Today*/Gallup poll, conducted with 851 Republicans and independents who lean Republican, shows Mitt Romney and Sarah Palin leading Republicans' vote preferences for 2012, with 24% and 16% support, respectively.

Among Republicans inclined to support the person best positioned to win next November -- so-called "strategic voters" -- Romney leads Palin 27% to 16%, followed by Herman Cain with 9%, Tim Pawlenty at 7%, Rick Santorum 6%, Ron Paul 5%, and Newt Gingrich and Michele Bachmann 4%. Among those choosing their candidate on the basis of issues, Romney garners 21%, Palin 14%, Paul 11%, Cain 8%, Gingrich and Bachmann 7%, Santorum 6%, and Pawlenty 5%.

Most Republicans Content With Current Field

Republicans are generally satisfied with the current set of candidates that Gallup considers likely contenders for the GOP 2012 presidential nomination, including Gary Johnson and Jon Huntsman, in addition to Romney, Palin, Cain, Paul, Pawlenty, Santorum, Bachmann, and

Gingrich. Two-thirds, 67%, say they would be satisfied if this list ultimately represents the full group of candidates running for the nomination, while 27% say they would not be satisfied.

Notably, there is no difference in satisfaction with the field between Republicans who favor nominating the best candidate to beat Obama vs. those favoring someone who closely shares their views.

Republicans' Reactions to Current 2012 GOP Presidential Field

Suppose the list of candidates I read to you ends up being the actual group of candidates who run for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination. If that were the case, would you be satisfied or not satisfied with the choice of candidates for the Republican presidential nomination?

	Satisfied	Not satisfied	No opinion
	%	%	%
Republicans/Republican leaners	67	27	6
PREFERRED TYPE OF CANDIDATE			
Has the best chance of beating Obama	69	27	4
Agrees on issues	66	27	6

USA Today/Gallup, June 8-11, 2011
Based on 851 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

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Economic Issues Paramount in Republicans' Minds

The same poll asked Republicans to say which of five broad issues will be most important to them in determining their vote for the Republican nomination. "The economy and jobs" swamps all others, with 57% of Republicans choosing it -- similar to the percentage of all Americans focusing on these in recent months as the nation's most important problems. Government debt comes in a distant second at 14%, followed closely by government size and power at 11%, with social issues and foreign affairs/national security tied for last, at 8% each.

Gallup finds little difference in this issue ranking between Republicans who prioritize electability vs. those who prioritize issue agreement as the chief criterion for selecting the nominee. The vast majority of both groups choose the economy and jobs.

Republicans' Reactions to Current 2012 GOP Presidential Field

When you think about who you might support for the Republican nomination, which set of issues is most important to you -- [economy and jobs, social issues such as abortion and gay marriage, government debt, government size and power, foreign affairs and national security]?

	All Republicans	Candidate preference: Has best chance of beating Obama	Candidate preference: Agrees on issues
	%	%	%
Economy and jobs	57	57	56
Government debt	14	15	14
Government size and power	11	13	9
Foreign affairs/national security	8	8	6
Social issues such as abortion and gay marriage	8	6	11
No opinion	3	1	3

USA Today/Gallup, June 8-11, 2011

Based on 851 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

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Another positive finding for Romney from the new poll, in addition to his expanded lead over the rest of the field, is that he is the top choice of Republicans who say the economy and jobs is the most important issue to them: 24% of these Republicans favor Romney for the nomination vs. 16% choosing Palin, the same as his lead over Palin among all Republicans.

Bottom Line

Romney currently leads the GOP presidential field, and has an eight-percentage-point edge over Palin in second place. He also performs a bit better in several recently reported trial heats against Obama than do his Republican competitors.

Much of the political speculation about whether Romney can maintain his front-runner status and win the primaries, however, centers on his ability to convince primary voters that he is an authentic conservative -- in other words, one of them. The new *USA Today*/Gallup poll suggests that half of Republicans may be less concerned about Romney's conservative credentials than about how he compares with other GOP candidates in general-election trial heats against Obama. Furthermore, 7 in 10 predominantly issue-focused Republicans are primarily concerned about fiscal issues -- either the economy and jobs or government debt -- both of which may play to Romney's business background.

Romney will likely take some heat from his rivals on the campaign trail as he tries to reconcile his healthcare policies as governor of Massachusetts with his more recent criticism of President Obama's healthcare law, as well as explain his past positions on gay rights and abortion. However, in addition to enjoying a modest lead at this early stage of the campaign, Romney appears to have as much potential as Palin, Cain, and others -- if not more -- to expand his lead by appealing to Republicans on the issues as well as to their pragmatism about nominating the strongest candidate.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 8-11, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 851 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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/148025/Half-GOP-Nominee-Pick-Rests-Ability-Beat-Obama.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

176-20. Romney Support Up; Widens Advantage in 2012 Preferences

Now holds 24% to 16% edge over Palin

June 13, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Republicans' support for Mitt Romney as their party's 2012 presidential nominee has increased significantly to 24%, compared with 17% in late May. As a result, Romney has widened his advantage over Sarah Palin in the latest update on rank-and-file Republicans' nomination preferences.

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.

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	May 20-24, 2011	Jun 8-11, 2011
Mitt Romney	17%	24%
Sarah Palin	15	16
Herman Cain	8	9
Ron Paul	10	7
Tim Pawlenty	6	6
Rick Santorum	2	6
Michele Bachmann	5	5
Newt Gingrich	9	5
Gary Johnson	2	2
Jon Huntsman	2	1
Rick Perry (vol.)	*	1
Other	3	1
None/Any/No opinion	22	18

(vol.) = Volunteered response
USA Today/Gallup

GALLUP'

These results are based on a June 8-11 *USA Today/*Gallup poll, conducted on the eve of a candidate debate in New Hampshire that will be the first to include some of the better-known candidates.

Romney appears to have gotten a boost in recent weeks after the official announcement of his candidacy. Gallup's prior update of May 20-24 came just after former co-leaders Mike Huckabee and Donald Trump announced they were not candidates for the nomination; that poll showed Romney and Palin in a virtual tie. Since then, Romney's support has increased and Palin's has been flat, leaving Romney with an eight-percentage-point advantage.

That is the largest numerical lead Gallup has measured for any candidate since it first began measuring nomination preferences in September. In that initial September poll, Romney held a seven-point advantage over the field of candidates. Romney or Huckabee held slim margins of no more than four points in subsequent polls.

No candidate besides Romney has shown a significant increase in support since the May update, though Rick Santorum, who also recently announced his official candidacy, saw his support rise from 2% to 6%. Meanwhile, support for Newt Gingrich, whose campaign has been off to a rocky start since his official announcement last month, is now at 5%, a slight decline since May. The high point for Gingrich was 13% in November.

Romney Has Wide Lead With Palin Excluded From Race

Palin's candidacy is far from assured, though her recent East Coast bus tour re-ignited talk of her joining the race. Should Palin not run, Romney would become a stronger front-runner. He holds a 17-point advantage over the nearest competitor, Herman Cain, when Palin's votes are excluded and re-allocated to her supporters' second choice. Under that scenario, six candidates essentially tie for second place with between 6% and 10% of the vote.

Support for 2012 Republican Nomination, Excluding Sarah Palin

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	May 20-24, 2011	Jun 8-11, 2011
Mitt Romney	19%	27%
Herman Cain	8	10
Ron Paul	12	9
Newt Gingrich	12	9
Michele Bachmann	7	7
Tim Pawlenty	7	6
Rick Santorum	2	6
Gary Johnson	3	2
Jon Huntsman	3	2
Rick Perry (vol.)	*	1
Other	4	2
None/Any/No opinion	25	21

(vol.) = Volunteered response

USA Today/Gallup

Note: Palin supporters' second choices are substituted for their Palin vote.

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In May, Romney held a seven-point advantage over his nearest competitors in Republicans' preferences with Palin excluded from the race. His lead has expanded as his support has grown and that of the rest of the field has shown minimal change.

Romney Shows Strong Appeal to Older, Educated Republicans

Romney holds at least a slight advantage over his competitors among most Republican subgroups. However, he has particular strength among older Republicans and those with a college education. Additionally, he holds a wide lead among Republicans who attend church every week.

The leading candidates' support is generally similar by ideology.

Support for 2012 Republican Nomination by Subgroup

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	Romney	Palin	Cain	Paul
18 to 34 years old	16%	16%	7%	13%
35 to 54 years old	21%	17%	11%	7%
55 years and older	32%	15%	7%	4%
College graduate	31%	10%	7%	8%
College nongraduate	20%	19%	10%	7%
Attend church weekly	25%	10%	9%	7%
Attend church nearly weekly/monthly	24%	17%	11%	7%
Seldom/Never attend church	22%	22%	7%	9%
Moderate/Liberal	23%	17%	5%	8%
Conservative	25%	15%	10%	7%

USA Today/Gallup, June 8-11, 2011

GALLUP

Those patterns of support could serve Romney well in the primaries and caucuses, as they are groups that historically tend to vote at higher rates in elections.

Implications

Romney may be emerging as a front-runner in a GOP race that has been characterized to date by its lack of a leading candidate. Republican nomination contests usually have a clear front-runner, and that candidate often goes on to win. But that did not hold true in the last presidential election cycle, when Rudy Giuliani led in national preference polls throughout 2007 but performed poorly in the actual nominating contests in 2008. Additionally, even if Romney were to expand his lead into the double digits in the coming months, he still would rate as one of the weakest Republican front-runners in recent GOP nominating history.

Romney remains behind lesser-known candidates Cain and Bachmann in Gallup's measure of positive intensity toward candidates, though his score seems to be on the rise.

Whether Romney is actually assuming the mantle of the front-runner will be clear in future polls. The current results could be a short-term bounce due to increased attention paid to his campaign after his official entry into the race, or could indicate a more lasting shift in preferences that has put him in the top position in the GOP field.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 8-11, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 851 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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.

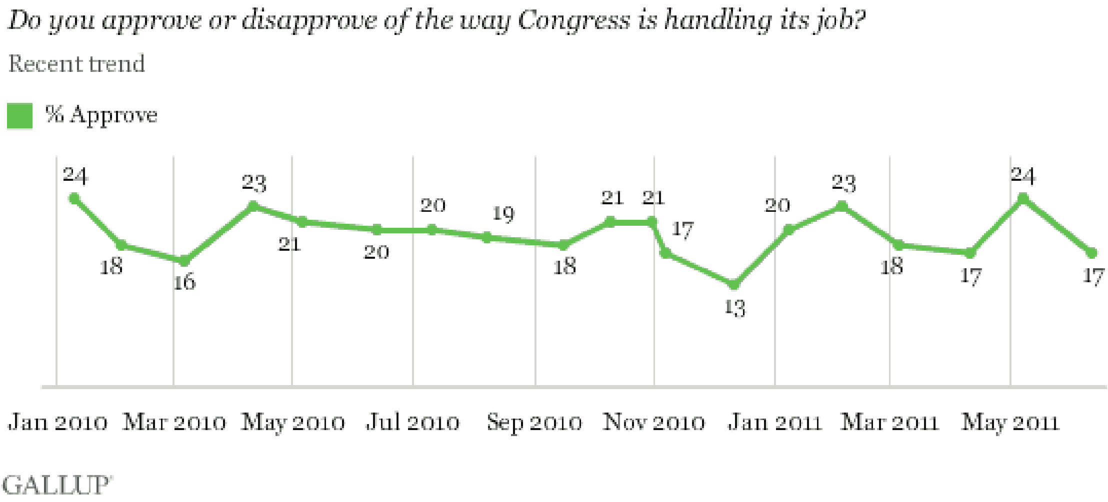
Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148016/Romney-Support-Widens-Advantage-2012-Preferences.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

176-21. Congress' Job Approval Retreats to 17%

Down seven points from May

June 17, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Seventeen percent of Americans approve of the job Congress is doing, down seven percentage points from May's 24% approval rating, but similar to where it was in March and April. Congress' approval rating has been below 25% since January 2010.



The June 9-12 update on Congress was conducted in the midst of the scandal involving U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner. However, the drop since May more likely reflects the end of the rally in support for the government after the death of Osama bin Laden rather than a reaction to the Weiner scandal. The bin Laden news preceded increases in approval ratings for President Obama and Congress as well as an uptick in Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the United States, but all three measures are back down in June.

The 17% now approving of Congress is just four points higher than the all-time low of 13% Gallup measured in December. Since Gallup began assessing congressional job approval in 1974, there have been only three ratings lower than 17%. All of these -- plus two other 17% ratings -- have been recorded in the past three years, underscoring the recent negative turn in Americans' views of Congress.

Lowest Congressional Approval Ratings, Gallup Polls

	% Approve
Dec 10-12, 2010	13
Jul 10-13, 2008	14
Mar 4-7, 2010	16
Jun 9-11, 2011	17
Apr 7-11, 2011	17
Nov 4-7, 2010	17

Note: Gallup first asked about congressional approval in 1974, and has done so on a monthly basis since 2001.

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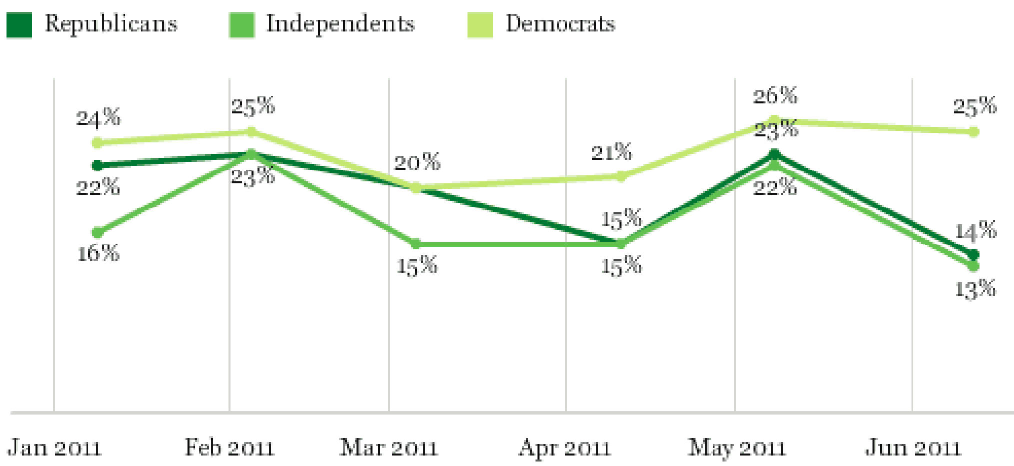
Further back in Gallup trends, Congress had an 18% approval rating in March 1992 and a 19% rating in June 1979. All of the historical low ratings have come during sluggish economic times in the United States.

Though all party groups currently give Congress poor ratings, Democrats' ratings (25%) are more positive than independents' (13%) or Republicans' (14%). Republicans' current approval rating is the lowest, by a point, since the GOP took control of the House of Representatives in January.

Republicans and Democrats rated Congress similarly during the early part of 2011, but in recent months Democrats have been more positive.

Approval Ratings of Congress, by Political Party

2011 trend



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Implications

Congress' approval ratings remain historically low, and in recent years, Americans' dim view of Congress has contributed to the significant turnover in its membership after the 2006, 2008, and 2010 elections. Unless conditions in the United States improve and Americans become more charitable in their ratings of Congress, the 2012 elections may result in another shake-up in Congress' membership, although with divided control of the legislative branch, it is not clear which party would be hurt more. The irony is that even as Congress' membership has turned over a lot in recent years, its standing as an institution in the eyes of the public has not improved.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 9-12, 2011, with a random sample of 1,020 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents per 1,000 national adults, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline telephone numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers. Cell 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/148091/Congress-Job-Approval-Retreats.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

176-22. American Retail Investors In US-Listed Chinese Companies

Ipsos-CER released first ever survey: American retail investors in US-listed Chinese Companies

Ipsos and China EConomic Review conduct first survey of American retail investors in us-listed chinese companies

Survey provides a clearer understanding of who is investing in US-listed Chinese stocks, how much money they are making, and what sectors they are interested in

A survey of 1,000 American investors designed by China Economic Review magazine and Ipsos Marketing paints a new and intriguing profile of the US investor in mainland Chinese stocks. Despite the flurry of accounting scandals at US-listed Chinese firms, the survey shows that US investors in Chinese stocks made a net profit trading Chinese shares over the 12 months ended May 1, 2011. US investors in Chinese company shares tend to be wealthier, younger, and better educated than their other peers; they do more research; and they are more bullish on China shares than they were last year.

Survey highlights include:

- Buyers of Chinese stocks tended to justify their stock purchases based on the growth prospects of the Chinese economy (61%). Sellers, by contrast, based their decisions largely on individual stock performance (56%). In other words, US investors appeared to buy on macro and sell on micro.
- Chinese companies which listed via reverse mergers were largely rejected by retail investors, with only 16% of the sample indicating they would consider investing in such companies.
- The average profit of China traders was US$2,433 over the last 12 months, with 96.5% declaring a net gain on their China investments.
- Half of the sample had not changed their opinion of Chinese stocks over the past 12 months. Just under a third (29%) of the total sample said they were ¡°optimistic¡± or ¡°much more optimistic¡± about mainland companies.
- Buy and sell sentiments varied by sector. The largest net buy sentiment was in energy, telecommunications and consumer goods sectors. However, net sentiment towards Chinese dot-coms was neutral.

Source:http://www.ipsos.com.cn/explorer/t_news/t_news_explorer_detail_en.asp?where=016B92B1-B0E4-45C1-8006-B8DDDF81185D

176-23. A Tale of Two Fathers

More Are Active, but More Are Absent

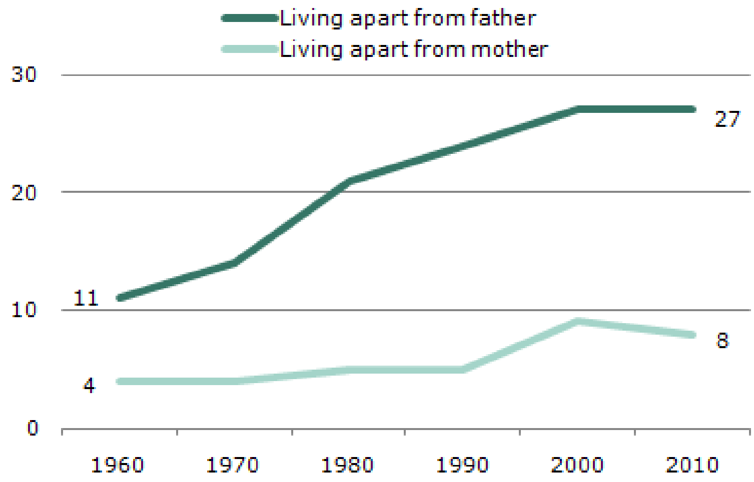
By Gretchen Livingston, Senior Researcher, and Kim Parker, Associate Director, Pew Social & Demographic Trends

June 15, 2011

The role of fathers in the modern American family is changing in important and countervailing ways. Fathers who live with their children have become more intensely involved in their lives, spending more time with them and taking part in a greater variety of activities. However, the share of fathers who are residing with their children has fallen significantly in the past half century.

Living Apart, 1960-2010

% of children younger than 18



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey and 1960 Census of Population

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In 1960, only 11% of children in the U.S. lived apart from their fathers. By 2010, that share had risen to 27%. The share of minor children living apart from their mothers increased only modestly, from 4% in 1960 to 8% in 2010.

According to a new Pew Research Center analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), more than one-in-four fathers with children ages 18 or younger now live apart from their children -- with 11% living apart from some of their children and 16% living apart from all of their children.

Fathers' living arrangements are strongly correlated with race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status as measured by educational attainment. Black fathers are more than twice as likely as white fathers to live apart from their children (44% vs. 21%), while Hispanic fathers fall in the middle (35%). Among fathers who never completed high school, 40% live apart from their children. This compares with only 7% of fathers who graduated from college.

Almost all fathers who live with their children take an active role in their day-to-day lives through activities such as sharing meals, helping with homework and playing. Fathers who live apart from their children are much less likely to be involved in these types of activities. Many compensate by communicating with their children through email or by phone: four-in-ten nonresident dads say they are in touch with their children several times a week. At the same time, however, nearly one-third of fathers who do not live with their children say they talk or exchange email with them less than once a month. Similarly, one-in-five absent fathers say they visit their children more than once a week, but an even greater share (27%) say they have not seen their children at all in the past year.

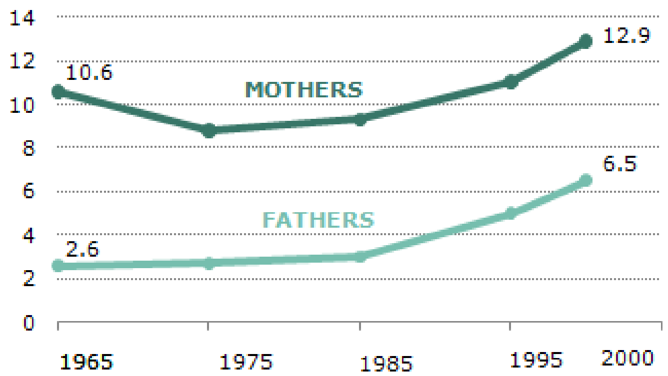
The analysis of the NSFG was paired with a new Pew Research Center survey of attitudes toward fatherhood that finds a strong majority of the public saying children need a father in the home. Fully 69% say having a father in the home is essential to a child's happiness. Only a slightly higher share (74%) says the same about having a mother in the home.

The Pew Research Center survey also finds that most fathers (63%) say being a dad is harder today than it was a generation ago. And the public gives today's dads mixed grades for the job they are doing as parents. Only about one-in-four adults say fathers today are doing a better job as parents than their own fathers did. Roughly one-third (34%) say they are doing a worse job, and 40% say they are doing about the same job. Dads themselves have similar opinions: 26% say today's fathers are doing a better job than their own fathers did. However, when asked about the job they are doing raising their own children, 47% say they're doing a better job than their own dad did; while 3% say they're doing a worse job.

More Time Spent, But Fewer Fathers in the Home

Mothers, Fathers and Time Spent with Children

Average weekly hours of child care among married mothers and fathers living with their children younger than 18



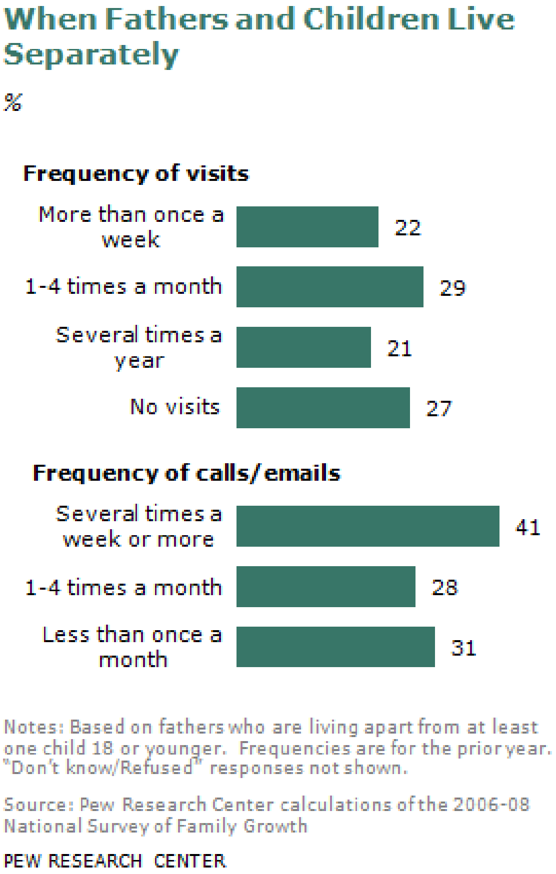
Note: Figures reflect the average number of hours spent in primary child care activities, which includes daily care, teaching and playing.

Source: Suzanne Bianchi, John Robinson and Melissa Milkie, *Changing Rhythms of American Family Life*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2007 (Table 4.1)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The changing role of fathers in the home can be measured in different ways. One approach is to look at the amount of time fathers spend caring for their children. Changing trends in time use data help illustrate the extent to which fathers who reside with their children have become more involved in their lives over time. In 1965, married fathers with children younger than age 18 living in their household spent an average of 2.6 hours per week caring for those children. Fathers' time spent caring for their children rose gradually over the next two decades -- to 2.7 hours per week in 1975 and three hours per week in 1985. From 1985 to 2000, the amount of time married fathers spent with their children more than doubled -- to 6.5 hours in 2000. From 1965 to 2000, married mothers consistently logged more time than married fathers caring for their minor children, though the gap between mothers and fathers in time spent on child care narrowed significantly.

Alongside this trend toward more time spent with children is a trend toward more children living apart from their fathers. Declining marriage rates and increases in out-of-wedlock births and multi-partner fertility have given rise to complicated family structures and have increased the likelihood that fathers will not reside with all of their children. According to the NSFG, nearly half of all fathers (46%) now report that at least one of their children was born out of wedlock, and 31% report that all of their children were born out of wedlock. In addition, some 17% of men with biological children have fathered those children with more than one woman.

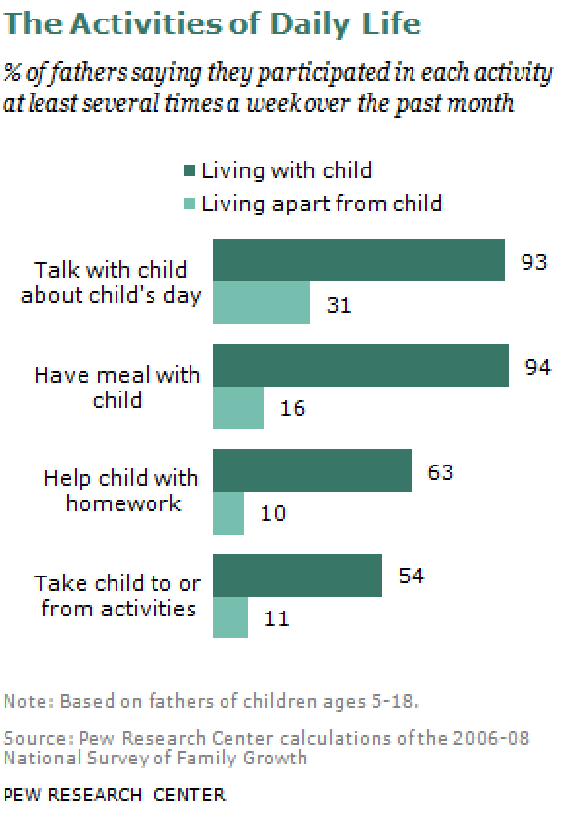


Living Apart from the Kids

What is life like for fathers who live apart from their children? As would be expected, there is a wide variety of experiences. Some fathers are highly involved with their children, in spite of the fact that they do not live together. Others have little or no contact with their children. Roughly one-in-five fathers who live apart from their children say they visit with them more than once a week, and an additional 29% see their children at least once a month. For 21% of these fathers, the visits take place several times a year. And for 27% there are no visits at all.

Communicating by phone or email is more prevalent than face-to-face contact. Among fathers who live apart from their minor children, 41% say they are in touch with them via phone or email several times a week; 28% say they communicate at least monthly. Still, a sizable minority (31%) say they talk on the phone or email with their children less than once a month.

Fathers, Children and Day-to-Day Activities



When it comes to spending time with a child, being in the same home makes a huge difference. More than nine-in-ten fathers who live with their children at least part of the time report that they shared a meal with their child or talked with their child about the child's day almost daily over the past several weeks. Nearly two-thirds (63%) say they helped their child with homework or checked on their homework at least several times a week, and 54% say they took their child to or from activities several times a week or more.

By comparison, relatively few fathers who live apart from their children report taking part in these activities. Three-in-ten (31%) say they talked with their child about his or her day several times a week or more. Only 16% say they had a meal with their child several times a week over the past month. One-in-ten helped out with homework several times a week or more, and 11% took a child to or from activities.

Are You a Good Father?

A father's presence or absence in the home is closely related to how he evaluates the job he is doing as a parent. Among fathers who live with their children at least part of the time, nearly nine-in-ten say they are doing a very good (44%) or good (44%) job as fathers to those children. An additional 11% classify themselves as okay fathers, and less than 1% say they are doing a bad or not very good job as a father.

Fathers who do not live with their children rate themselves much more negatively. Only 19% say they are doing a very good job as fathers to the children they live apart from, and 30%

say they are doing a good job. One-in-four say they are doing an okay job, while nearly as many describe their parenting as not very good (13%) or bad (9%).

Other Key Findings

- Men have a strong desire to be fathers ... Overall, 87% of males ages 15-44 who have no children say that they want to have children at some point. Among childless men between the ages of 40-44, a narrow majority (51%) still want children.
- ... But most say you don't need children to be happy. Men who do not have children reject the idea that people can't be happy unless they have children. Only 8% of childless men agree with this statement, and even among fathers, only a small minority (14%) agree that children are necessary in order to be happy.
- Most say being a father is harder today than it was a generation ago ... Among all adults, 57% say it is more difficult to be a father today than it was 20 or 30 years ago. Only 9% say being a father is easier today, and 32% say it's about the same. Among dads themselves, 63% say the job is harder now.
- ... But there is no consensus on whether today's fathers are more involved. The public is evenly split over whether today's fathers play a greater role or a lesser role in their children's lives compared with dads 20 or 30 years ago. While 46% say fathers play a greater role now, 45% say they play less of a role now.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2026/survey-role-of-fathers-fatherhood-american-family-living-apart-from-children

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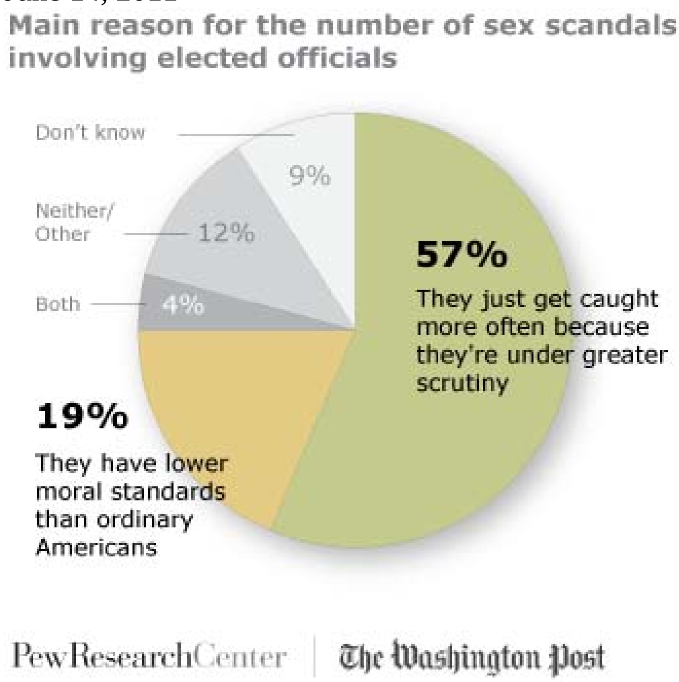
176-24. Most Say Political Sex Scandals Due to Greater Scrutiny, Not Lower Morality

June 14, 2011



Most Americans attribute the series of public sex scandals in recent years involving politicians more to the heightened scrutiny they face than to lower moral standards among elected officials.

A 57%-majority says elected officials just get caught more often because they are under greater scrutiny. About two-in-ten (19%), on the other hand, say elected officials have lower moral standards than ordinary Americans, according to the latest national survey conducted June 9-12 among 1,002 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and *The Washington Post*.

Among the 19% who attribute the scandals to lower moral standards among elected officials, most (13% of the public) say that when people get into positions of power, they tend to lose their moral standards, while 4% say that politics attracts the kind of people who have lower moral standards.

Broad Agreement: Elected Officials Just Get Caught

What explains the number of political sex scandals?	**They just get caught more often**	**They have lower moral standards**
	%	%
Total	57	19
Men	55	20
Women	59	18
18-29	66	14
30-49	56	19
50-64	55	20
65+	50	21
Republican	54	20
Democrat	65	19
Independent	51	20

Pew Research Center/Washington Post June 9-12, 2011.

There are only slight differences in opinion across political and demographic groups. Each attributes the number of sex scandals more to the level of scrutiny faced by officials than to lower moral standards by at least a two-to-one margin. For example, 55% of men and 59% of women say that elected officials involved in sex scandals get caught more often because they are under greater scrutiny.

There also is no difference in opinion between those following the current scandal involving Rep. Anthony Weiner very closely and those following this news less closely. Weiner has acknowledged sending sexual messages and photos to at least six women online.

Overall, 12% reject both of the options offered, answering neither or giving other reasons. Among those who offer an explanation, the most frequently cited refer to elected officials' ego or arrogance.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2022/political-scandals-greater-scrutiny-not-lower-morality

176-25. Lack of Retirement Funds Is Americans' Biggest Financial Worry

Concern about being able to maintain standard of living at a new high

June 15, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- More Americans are worried about not having enough money for retirement (66%) than are worried about seven other financial matters Gallup asked about. Majorities of Americans, however, are also very or moderately worried about not being able to pay medical costs for a serious illness or accident and about not being able to maintain their standard of living.

Americans' Worry About Eight Financial Matters

Next, please tell me how concerned you are right now about each of the following financial matters, based on your current financial situation -- are you very worried, moderately worried, not too worried, or not worried at all. If a particular item does not apply to you, please say so. How worried are you about...?

	Very/Moderately worried	Not too/Not at all worried
	%	%
Not having enough money for retirement	66	30
Not being able to pay medical costs for a serious illness/accident	60	38
Not being able to maintain your standard of living	58	41
Not being able to pay medical costs for normal healthcare	48	50
Not having enough to pay your normal monthly bills	43	55
Not having enough money to pay for your children's college	41	27
Not being able to pay your rent/mortgage/other housing costs	36	58
Not being able to make the minimum payments on your credit cards	24	60

April 7-11, 2011

GALLUP

In the April 7-11, 2011, poll, Gallup's annual survey on the economy and personal finance, Americans were least likely to be worried about not making minimum credit card payments (24%) and not being able to pay for their housing costs (36%).

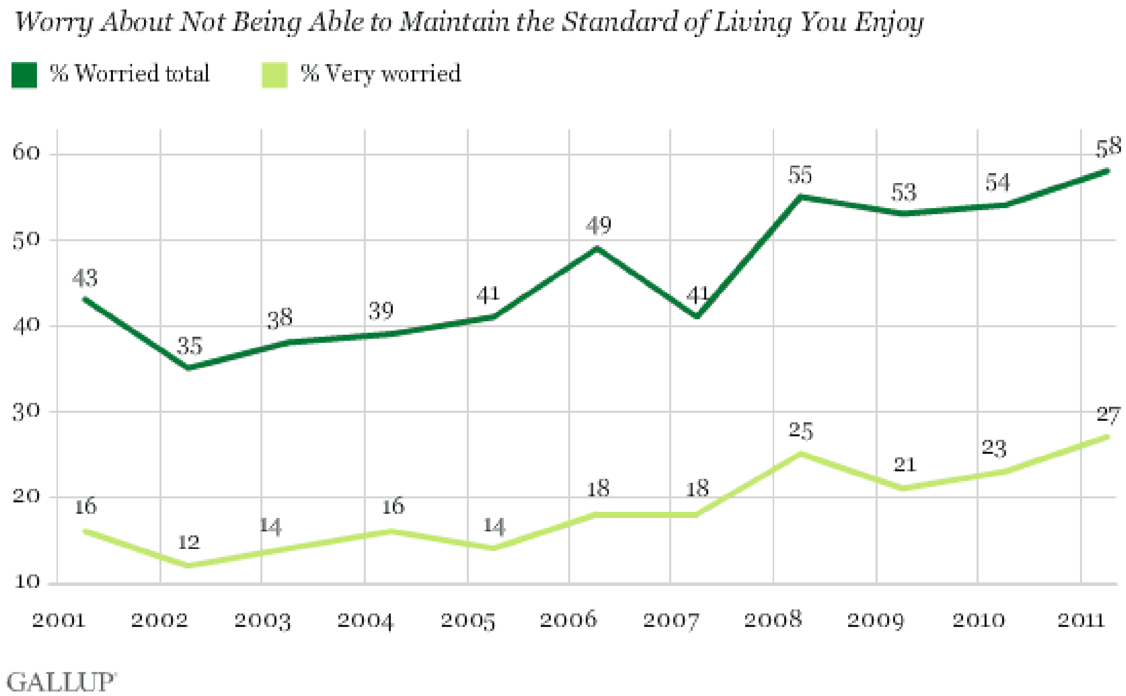
Gallup has tracked Americans' worries about these eight financial items annually since 2001, and has found that the top three concerns have consistently been retirement, medical costs related to a serious illness or accident, and maintaining their current standard of living.

While the order of Americans' worries has generally stayed the same over time, concern about each individual item increased at least somewhat during the recession, and all are up significantly from 2001.

Worry About Standard of Living at a New High

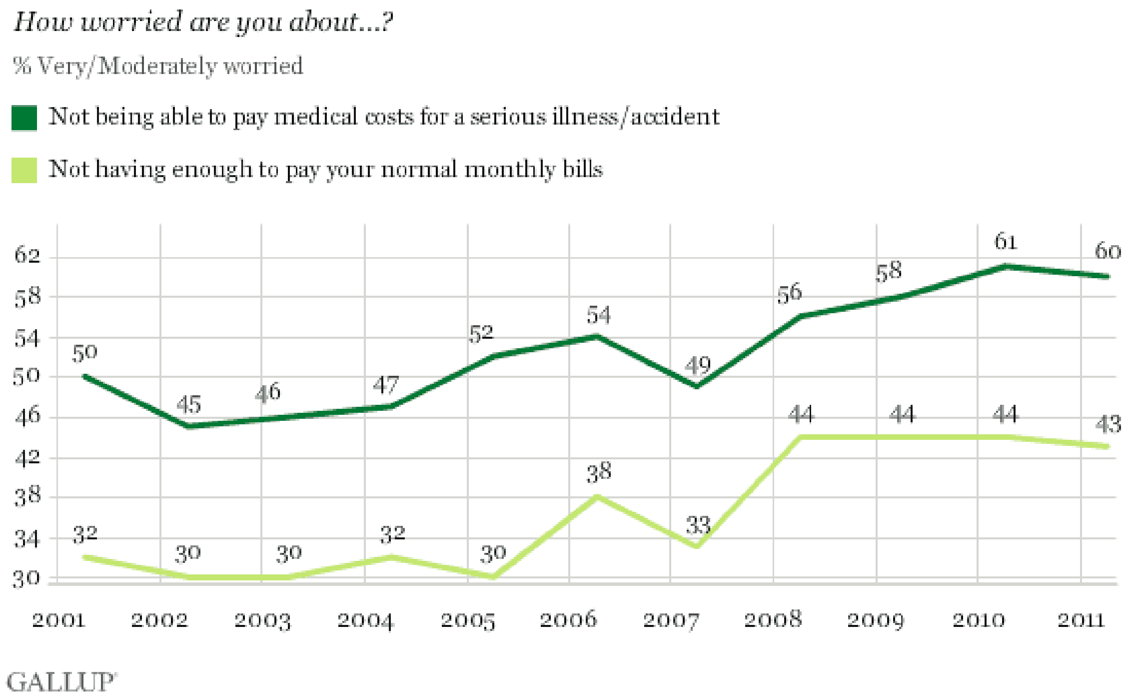
The 58% of Americans who are worried -- and the 27% who are "very worried" -- about not being able to maintain their current standard of living is the highest on record.

Americans' concerns about their standard of living initially spiked during the recession and have remained above pre-recession levels before reaching the new high this year.



Concern About Money for Monthly Bills, Serious Illness/Accident Crept up Amid Recession

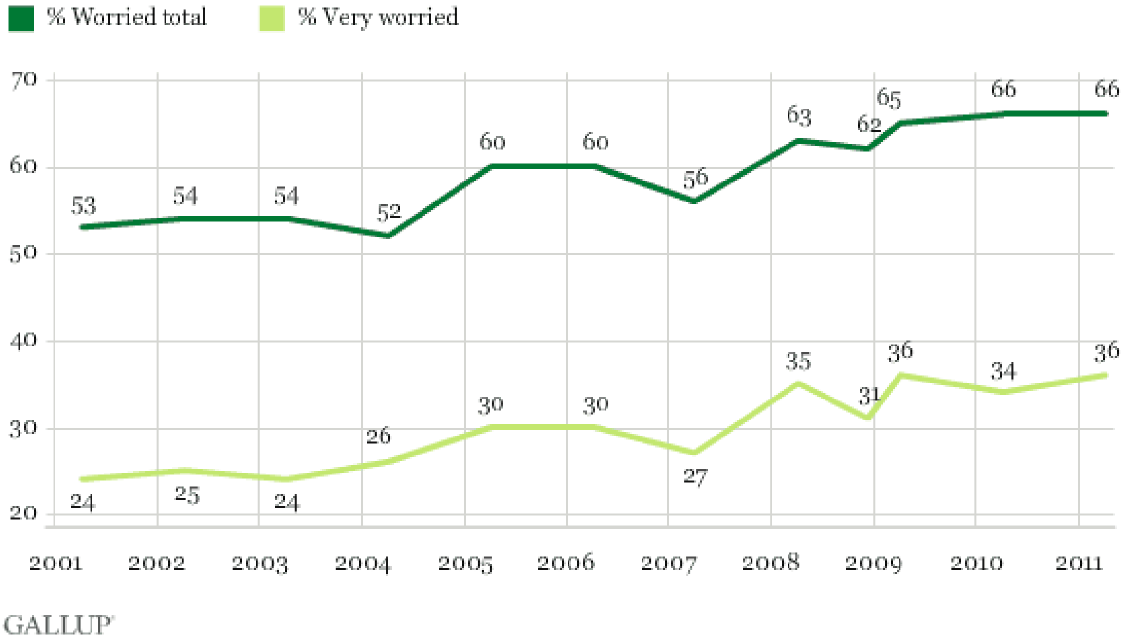
Americans' worries about not being able to pay medical costs for a serious illness or accident and not having enough money to pay their normal monthly bills increased in 2008 as the recession set in and have remained elevated since.



More Americans Very Worried About Retirement Funding vs. Early 2000s

While retirement has led Americans' financial worry list each year, the percentage who are very worried about this is significantly higher since 2008 compared with the early 2000s. The two-thirds of Americans who are now worried about funding their retirement ties the all-time high Gallup recorded last year.

Very or Moderately Worried About Not Having Enough Money for Retirement



Retirement Issue Most Worrisome for 30- to 49-Year-Olds

Seventy-seven percent of Americans between the ages of 30 and 49 are very or somewhat worried about not having enough money for retirement. Seven in 10 50- to 64-year olds are also worried. Seniors -- who are the most likely to already be retired -- are much less worried, at 45%.

Retirement worries, however, are similar across income groups. Roughly two in three Americans in all income groups say they are worried about not being able to fund their retirement.

Worry About Not Having Enough Money for Retirement, by Age and Annual Income

	% Very/Moderately worried	% Not too/Not at all worried	% Doesn't apply/ Don't know
AGE			
18 to 29	59	34	7
30 to 49	77	22	2
50 to 64	70	29	1
65+	45	43	12
ANNUAL INCOME			
Less than $30,000	69	25	6
$30,000 to $74,999	65	31	4
$75,000+	68	33	1

April 7-11, 2011

GALLUP

Bottom Line

In general, the recession had a significant effect on Americans' personal financial worries. More Americans are worried now about each of the eight items Gallup tracks than were so in the early 2000s. While Americans' concerns about being able to maintain their standard of living reached a new high this year, their predominant financial worry continues to be about being able to fund their retirement.

The state of retirement in America may be going through a transition period. Social Security and Medicare face insolvency, and government and union-funded pensions programs took a major hit during the 2008 economic crisis. Many Americans' personal retirement investment portfolios also suffered significantly amid the recession. Layer on high unemployment, and all of this adds up to a lot of worry about retirement.

Americans aged 30 to 49 -- who are the most worried about funding their retirement -- are also the most likely to say Social Security and Medicare are in a crisis. Additionally, Gallup has found non-retirees increasingly likely to believe they will have to fund their own retirement, relying more on 401(k)s and other self-directed retirement plans and less on Social Security and pensions than today's retirees. Thus, it is not surprising non-retirees' future financial security is a significant worry for them.

Lawmakers' ability to address Medicare and Social Security issues and the stock market's further recovery will likely have an effect on non-retirees' current and future financial wellbeing -- convincing them that they will be able to not only meet their basic needs in their retirement, but also have the financial security to spend these years doing the things they enjoy.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted April 7-11, 2011, with a random sample of 1,077 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, 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 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/148058/Lack-Retirement-Funds-Americans-Biggest-Financial-Worry.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

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AUSTRALASIA

176-26. Economic & Financial Issues (32%, up 5%) are most Important Problems Facing Australia & Environmental Issues (32%, up 3%) are the most Important Problems Facing the World

Finding No. 4677 - In Australia, a cross-section of 1,261 men and women aged 14 or over were interviewed by telephone on June 1-5, 2011. Respondents were asked: "Firstly, what do you think is the most important problem facing the World today?" and "What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?": June 17, 2011

Australians believe the most important issues facing the **World** are Climate Change and other environmental problems. However, locally Australians are increasingly concerned about Economic & Financial issues; and less concerned about the environment, according to the latest Roy Morgan Issues Research conducted in early June 2011.

Australian views on Problems facing Australia

When asked about the most important problem facing **Australia** Economic & Financial issues are mentioned by 32% (up 5% since March 2011) including such issues as the Economy, Economic problems & Interest Rates (8%, up 2%), Cost of Living issues & Inflation (6%, up 1%) and the **Carbon Tax 5% (up 3%).**

A group of issues labelled 'Government, Politics, Immigration & Human Rights issues' are named by 26% (up 4%) of Australians. Within that group 9% (up 2%) mentioned issues about the Government, the political system, political leadership and Julia Gillard; 9% (up 3%) mentioned Refugees and asylum seekers; and 5% (up 1%) immigration policies.

Environmental issues are mentioned by 21% (down 3%) as the most important problem facing Australia — the most important Environmental Issue is Climate Change/ Global warming (10%, up 1%) followed by the**Carbon Tax 5% (up 3%).** However since the last survey there has been a decrease in the concern about Natural disasters — Floods, Earthquakes etc. (1%, down 6%) and Water conservation (1%, down 2%). Recent rains and the recovery from the floods in Eastern Australia clearly mean these are less important issues than they were earlier in the year.

Australian views on Problems facing the World

Environmental issues (mentioned by 32% of Australians, up 3% since March 2011) are the biggest problem facing the **World** today — clearly the most important issue is Climate Change/ Global warming (23%, up 7%). Natural disasters — Floods, Earthquakes etc. (1%, down 2%) have dropped in importance in the months since the Australian floods and Japanese & New Zealand earthquakes.

As a **World** problem Economic & Financial issues (30%, up 1%) are up since March 2011, but remain well below the peak of 51% reached two years ago in May 2009. Within the broad group of Economic issues the Economy, Economic problems, Interest rates (9%, up 3%) are now equal with Poverty & the gap between the rich and poor (9%, unchanged) as the most important Economic issues ahead of Over-population (5%, unchanged).

Some 14% (down 2%) consider Terrorism, Wars, Security & Safety to be the biggest problem facing the **World**.

Michele Levine says:

"This latest Roy Morgan Issues Research shows that although 'Climate Change' and environmental issues are seen as the major world problems, at a local level Australians are increasingly worried about our economy and financial issues, leadership and human rights.

"This pattern of concerns articulated by Australians represents the context within which the Gillard Government has stated plans to introduce Carbon Tax legislation; and tried to solve the 'boat people' issue.

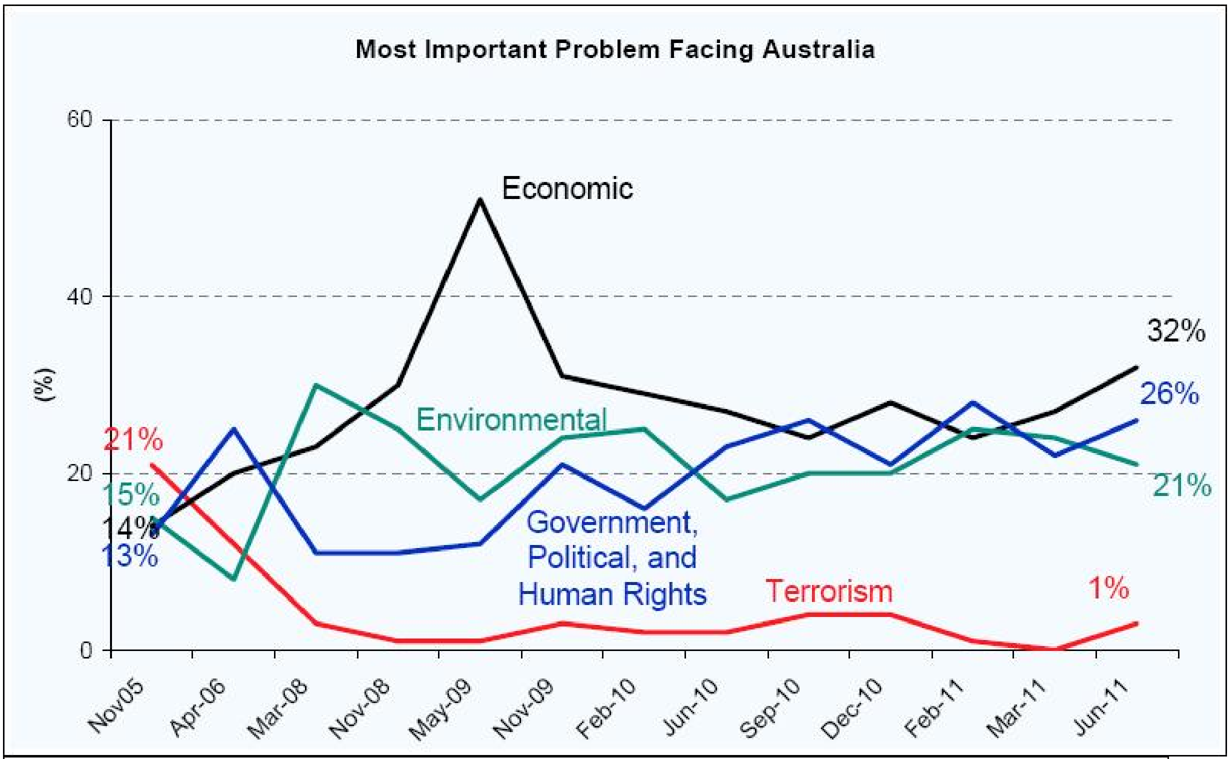
"The complexity of both of these issues and the degree to which they have become 'political' is being reflected in the increased concern about leadership in this 'issues' research, and dramatic loss of support for the ALP Government shown in recent Morgan Polls. (L-NP 56.5% cf. ALP 43.5% on June 4/5, 2011)

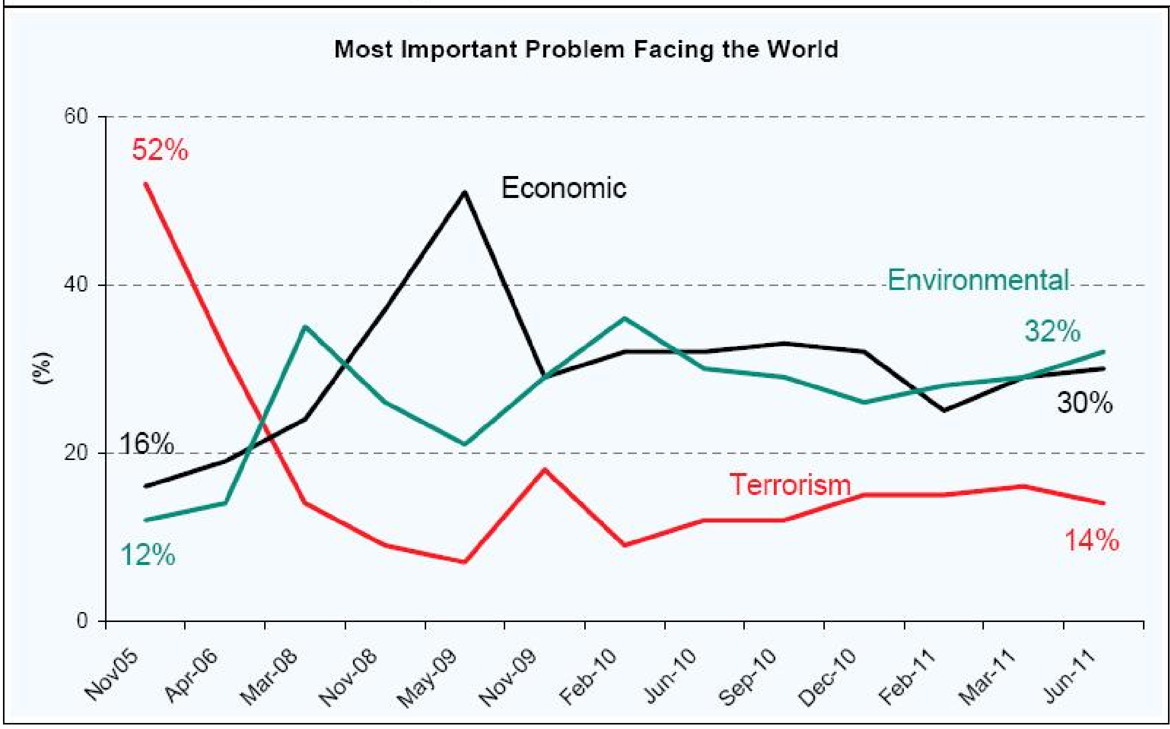
"The fall in this week's Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence (down 5.5pts to 108.3) — now at its lowest since May 2009 during the Global Financial Crisis — confirms the challenging circumstances faced by the Government."

These findings come from a special Roy Morgan survey conducted in Australia on attitudes towards issues facing **Australia** and the **World** in the future.

In Australia, a cross-section of 1,261 men and women aged 14 or over were interviewed by telephone on June 1-5, 2011. Respondents were asked: *"Firstly, what do you think is the most important problem facing the World today?"* and *"What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?"*

The research conducted was both **qualitative** (in that people were asked to use their own words) and **quantitative** (in that the 'open-ended' responses were analysed and 'coded' so that the results could be counted and reported as percentages).





Source: http://www.roymorgan.com/news/polls/2011/4677/

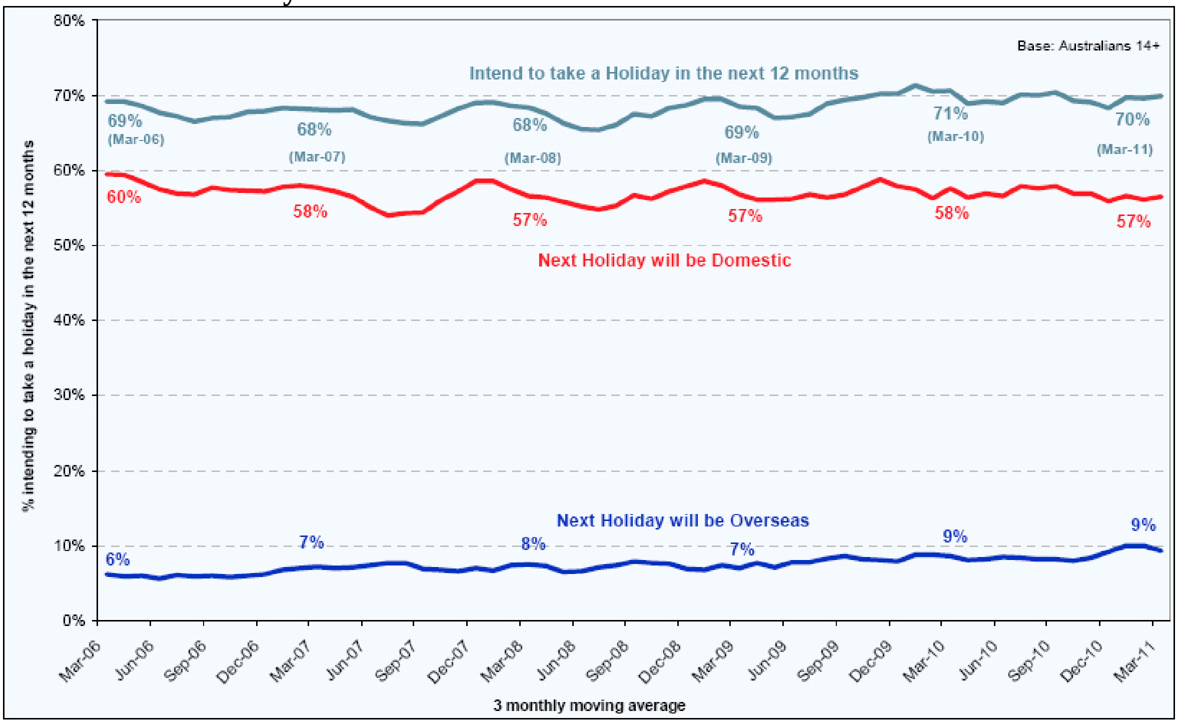
176-27. Overseas Holiday Intention Remains High In March 2011 Quarter

Article No. 1363 - Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (January 2006 –March 2011, average sample per quarter n=5,204). : June 15, 2011

70% (12.9 million) of Australians 14 years or older intend to take at least one holiday in the next 12 months. The media types these holiday intenders consider most useful in deciding travel and accommodation are the internet (62%), followed by newspapers (13%), magazines (8%), yellow pages (5%), and catalogues and television (4% each), according to the latest Roy Morgan Research Holiday Tracking Survey conducted in the three months to March 2011.

The percentage of Australians who intend to travel domestically on their next holiday has fallen to 57% in the March 2011 quarter from 58% in March 2010. The percentage of Australians who intend to go overseas on their next holiday however remains high at 9% for the March 2011 quarter.

Intention to take a holiday in the next 12 months



Source: Roy Morgan Single Source *(January 2006 —March 2011, average sample per quarter n=5,204).*

N.B. A small percentage of holiday intenders cannot nominate where they will be going on their next holiday.

As a result, the percentages shown as intending to go overseas or domestic on their next holiday do not add to the total intenders.

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

"The appeal of an overseas holiday is growing among Australians, and with the strong Australian dollar there is no better time to go. By contrast domestic holidays are declining in appeal while become relatively expensive.

"Overseas holiday intention is highest amongst young singles and couples as well as mature couples with no children living at home."

Media Considered Most Useful by Holiday Intenders when Selecting Travel or Accommodation

	Total Intenders	Domestic Intenders	Overseas Intenders
Internet	62%	61%	68%
Newspapers	13%	13%	11%
Magazines	8%	8%	5%
Yellow Pages	5%	5%	2%
Catalogues	4%	4%	2%
Television	4%	4%	4%
Radio	1%	1%	1%

Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia)*: Jul 2010 — Dec 2010.*

Sample*: Intend to take a holiday in the next 12 months. In the 6 Months to December 2010, n=5,319.*

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
2,500	±1.9	±1.7	±1.2	±0.9
5,000	±1.4	±1.2	±0.8	±0.6
10,000	±1.0	±0.9	±0.6	±0.4

Source: http://www.roymorgan.com/news/press-releases/2011/1363/

176-28. New Zealand Education Gender Gap Disappears

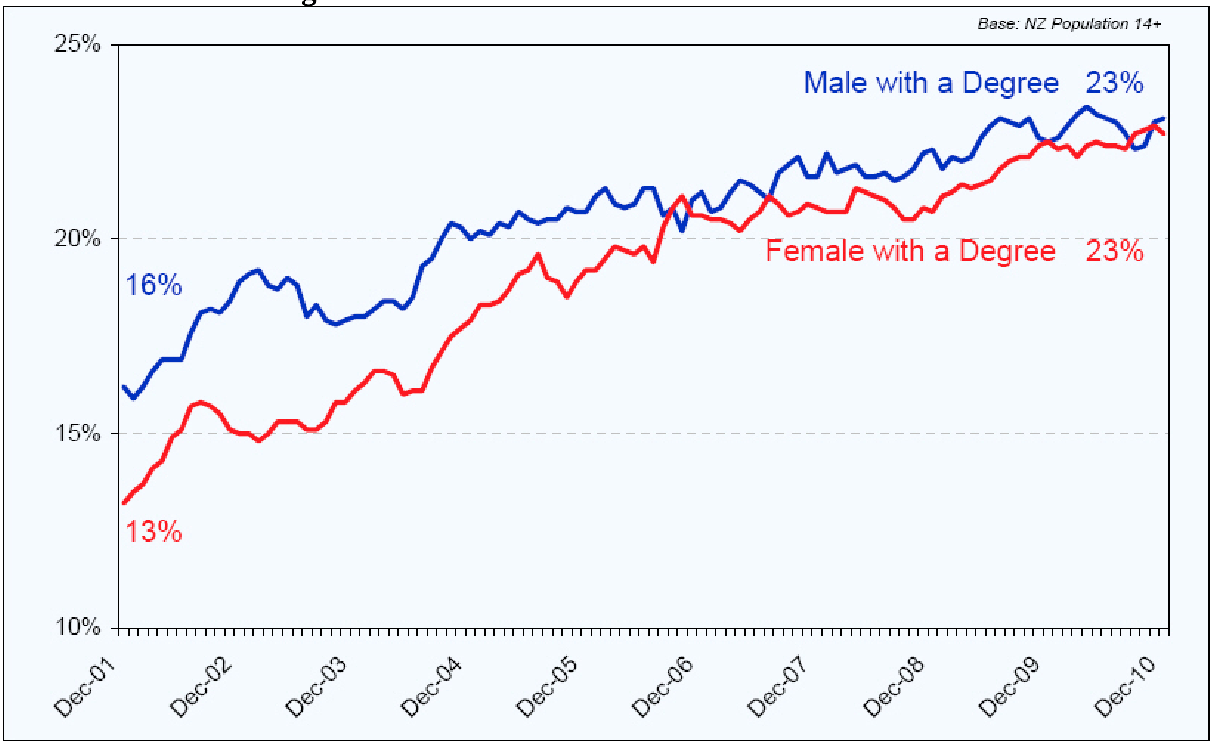
Article No. 1362 - Source: Roy Morgan Single Source, NZ population 14+, average 12 month moving average Dec 01 – Dec 10, n = 12,046.: June 15, 2011

The gender disparity between university degree holders in New Zealand was non-existent as of December 2010, according to the New Zealand State of the Nation report — a major study of New Zealanders by Roy Morgan Research spanning over ten years and 120,000 interviews.

A decade ago in 2001, 16% of males and 13% of females held university degrees — a real gender gap. By December 2010, 23% of males and 23% of females in New Zealand held a degree.

The last decade has seen substantial growth in university education in New Zealand. However the study shows the proportion of people obtaining degrees has steadied. In October 2009, 23% of New Zealanders held a degree — the same proportion as December 2010.

Total New Zealand Degree Holders



***Source**: Roy Morgan Single Source, NZ population 14+, average 12 month moving average Dec 01 — Dec 10, n = 12,046.*

Norman Morris, Industry Communications Director, Roy Morgan Research, says:

"The gap between New Zealand males and females who hold a university degree has been steadily closing since December 2005, and there now appears to be little difference. New Zealand females have experienced the greatest rise in education during this time and they are now only slightly behind males.

"The Roy Morgan State of the Nation report shows real social changes in the last decade — many of which are driven by the changing role of women in New Zealand society."

About Roy Morgan Research:

Roy Morgan Research is the largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state of Australia, as well as in New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom. A full service research organisation specialising in omnibus and syndicated data, Roy Morgan

Research has almost 70 years' experience in collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

In Australia, Roy Morgan Research is considered to be the authoritative source of information on financial behaviour, readership, voting intentions and consumer confidence. Roy Morgan Research is a specialist in recontact customised surveys which provide invaluable and effective qualitative and quantitative information regarding customers and target markets.

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	**Percentage Estimate**			
	40%-60%	***25% or 75%***	***10% or 90%***	***5% or 95%***
5,000	±1.4	±1.2	±0.8	±0.6
10,000	±1.0	±0.9	±0.6	±0.4
15,000	±0.8	±0.7	±0.5	±0.4
20,000	±0.7	±0.6	±0.4	±0.3
25,000	±0.6	±0.5	±0.4	±0.3

Source: http://www.roymorgan.com/news/press-releases/2011/1362/

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

176-29. Europeans' Happiness Doesn't Necessarily Fade With Age

Older people fare better in wealthier European nations

June 16, 2011

BRUSSELS -- For Europeans as a whole, growing older generally means growing less happy. Fifty-seven percent of Europeans aged 75 and older said they experienced happiness "yesterday" versus 66% of younger residents who said the same. However, older Europeans fare better in certain regions, with happiness declining little in northern Europe.

Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about happiness?

% "yes" by age

	Aged 15 to 74	Aged 75 and older
Western Europe	81%	75%
Northern Europe	72%	71%
Southeastern Europe	63%	44%
Eastern Europe	49%	31%

Based on aggregated data from 38 countries collected between 2005 and 2010

GALLUP

These data, aggregated from Gallup surveys conducted in 38 European countries between 2005 and 2010, reveal that people tend to be happier into old age in some countries and not others. In a number of countries -- mostly in northern and western Europe -- there is a slight decline or no decline at all in how likely people are to report happiness after age 75.

Wealth and longevity may have a lot to do with happiness. Older people tend to be more likely to remain as happy as the rest of the population in countries with higher GDPs (about $30,000 per capita or higher) -- such as the United Kingdom and Belgium -- and in countries with higher life expectancies (78 years or more) -- such as Germany and Austria. Younger people's reported happiness, on the other hand, varies less by GDP and life expectancy.

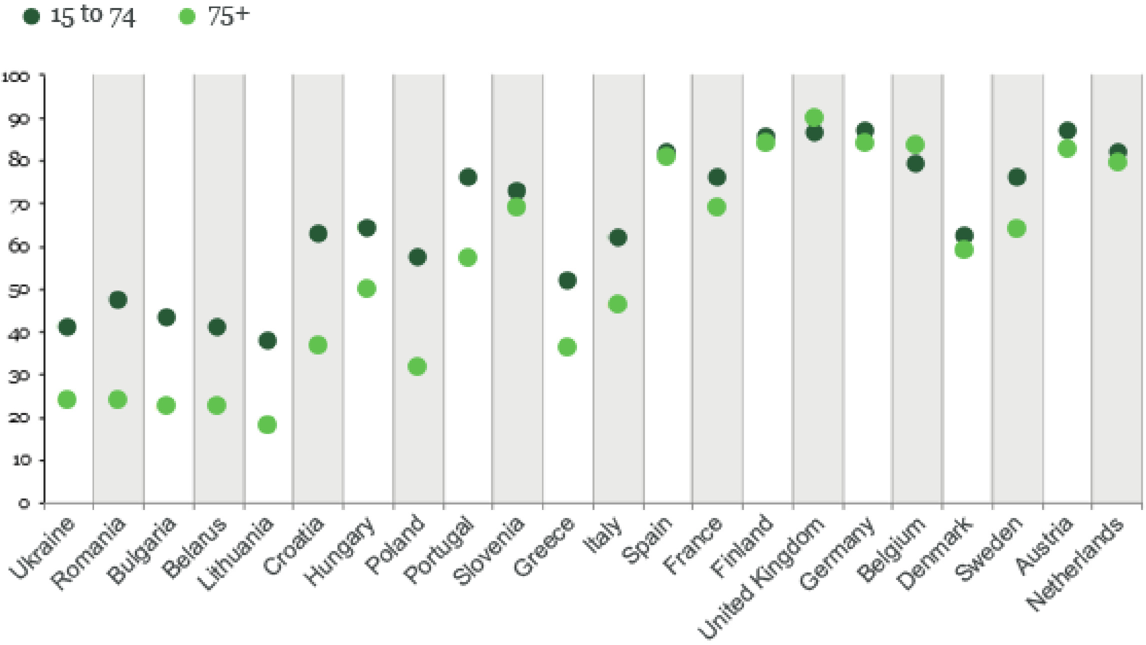
Lower GDP, Lower Happiness

Happiness among the young and old is much lower in poorer European countries than in wealthier ones. In countries with lower GDPs (lower than $20,000 per capita PPP), a smaller percentage of the general population experienced happiness the day prior to the survey (less than 65%). The worst off are the former Eastern bloc countries, particularly Romania and Bulgaria, which have GDPs of about $12,000 to $13,000. Less than 50% of the population in these countries report experiencing happiness the day before the survey.

This effect is even more marked in the oldest age group. In lower GDP countries, less than 40% of older people, on average, report experiencing happiness. In the poorest of these countries, happiness in the oldest age group is about half what it is in the general population, dropping lower than 30%.

Experienced Happiness by GDP Per Capita and Age

Countries are sorted by GDP per capita (from the lowest to the highest)



Surveys conducted between 2005 and 2010. Results for countries where sample sizes drop below 100 for those 75 and older are not reported.

GALLUP

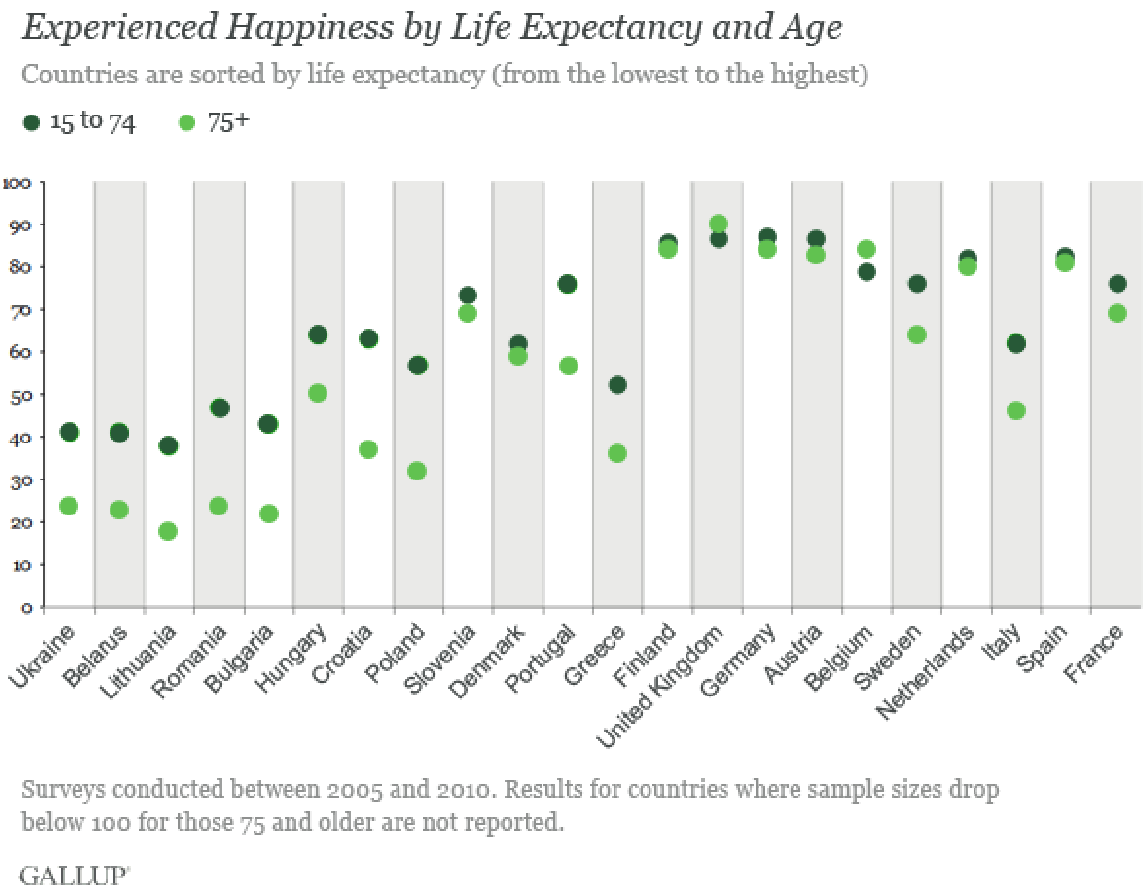
In many countries with higher GDP, the gap between the happiness of older and younger people is small, generally less than 10 percentage points. In western Europe, 81% of the general population and 75% of the oldest age group report having experienced happiness the previous day.

In fact, adults aged 75 and older in the wealthiest countries are more likely to experience happiness daily than the general population in poorer countries. People aged 75 and older in the richest countries -- such as the United Kingdom and Germany -- are up to three times more likely to experience happiness in their everyday lives than older people in the poorest countries.

Life Expectancy Is Also an Important Factor

As life expectancy increases, people in the 15 to 74 and the 75 and older age group are more likely to experience happiness. Older people in countries with life expectancies of 78 years or higher are more than twice as likely to experience happiness than older people in countries where life expectancies are lower than 73 years.

In countries where life expectancy is higher, older and younger people generally report similar levels of happiness. In countries with lower life expectancies, however, older people are much less likely than those aged 15 to 74 to report happiness. Life expectancy is related to GDP; most countries with higher GDPs also have higher life expectancies.



Implications

Health is an important aspect of overall wellbeing, and may be more important for the elderly as health declines in old age. Many of the countries in the lower GDP group also have lower satisfaction with personal health and lower satisfaction with the availability of quality healthcare, ranging from 35% of the general population in Bulgaria to 92% in Austria.

The link between higher GDP and higher likelihood of happiness -- particularly for older people -- is in line with a prior analysis of Gallup data that found GDP relates to life satisfaction as well as to health satisfaction in old age. In wealthier nations, life satisfaction is higher and people are more satisfied with their health in old age.

Survey Methods

Results are based on 83,747 face-to-face and telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in each country, aged 15 and older, conducted between 2005 and 2010 in 38 countries. For results based on the total samples, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ±3.1 percentage points to ±5.7 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148064/Europeans-Happiness-Doesn-Necessarily-Fade-Age.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Behavioral%20Economics%20-%20Wellbeing

176-30. Widespread Support For American Action Against Osama Bin Laden, But Views Are Divided On Details

The first global poll on the subject conducted in 25 countries across the globe

Global Survey finds widespread support for American action against Osama bin Laden. However views are divided on the impact of OBL death on terrorism in the world and only half of the survey respondents are certain that OBL was actually killed.

According to the first global poll after the event, there is widespread support across the world with 81% supporting American action against Osama bin Laden in which he was killed on May 2 this year. The supporters of the action are however divided between full supporters of the action which includes bin Laden being killed, accounting for 39% of the global sample and those who lend qualified support, 42%, saying they objected to the manner of the action and would have preferred to see Osama bin Laden arrested rather than killed. Only 9% globally opposed the American action, whereas 10% did not respond, mostly saying they were undecided or did not know.

The global poll was carried out by Gallup International (in association with WIN), the world's oldest and the largest network of independent opinion pollsters. The sample comprised 20,995 men and women who were statistically chosen from 25 countries from all parts of the world representing the largest populations such as China, India and the United States as well as smaller countries such as Iceland. The sample includes representation from Asia, Africa, East and West Europe and America and represents views of people belonging to various ethnicities, religions, socio-economic groups, age and gender. Further details on sampling methodology is provided at the end of this document.

The survey findings show that despite widespread approval of American action there are differences across geographical regions and religious affiliations.

Opinion in North America tilts toward full support of the action taken against Osama bin Laden in which he was killed on the spot, while opinion in Europe tilts towards a qualified support, suggesting that while the respondents supported the action, they would have favored a different way to execute it and many say they would have preferred to see Osama arrested, rather than killed on the spot.

Curiously but not surprisingly only one half, 53% of the global opinion tapped in this survey is sure that the man killed in the operation was Osama bin Laden, the remaining are split between those who believe the action was staged, 22% and 24% who did not respond. There is a marked relationship between the type of support for the American action and credibility about the death of real Osama bin Laden. Thus 70% of full supporters of American action say they are convinced the person killed was Osama. But only 48% of qualified supporters and even fewer, 32%, of the opponents of the action hold this view. Such skeptical views are however not unusual since polling data shows that nearly 13% of American citizens continue to dispute that their current President is not American born, even after he made a public display of his birth certificate recently.

Findings from the survey also reveal significant difference between views of respondents belonging to various religions. While a majority of Muslims across the world have lent support to American action, their views tilt towards qualified support and higher level of Muslims in all continents oppose the action compared with peoples of other faiths in the same areas. Globally opposition to the American action is 21% among Muslims compared with 7% among respondents of other orientations and faiths. In Europe and America opposition among Muslims living in those continents is 9% as opposed to 4% among others. In Africa opposition is 19% among Muslims compared with 9% among others; in Asia opposition is 22%, among Muslim while it is 8% among peoples of other faiths and orientations.

Impact of Osama's death on World-wide Terrorism:

Only 20% of global opinion is hopeful and optimistic that Osama's death will lead to fewer acts of terrorism across the world. In fact the pessimists on the subject who believe terrorism might in fact rise are 38% thus outnumbering the optimists. As for the remaining, 29% believe the situation will remain unchanged, while 13% said they did not know.

Impact on the Image of President Obama:

Globally 27% said their image of President Obama has improved after his action against Osama bin Laden. However a sizeable number, 45%, said the image of President Obama in their eyes remained unchanged, or even worsened, 17%. The remaining, 11% did not give a specific answer. As one would expect President Obama gained highest net increase in favorable image, (defined as improvement in image minus damage to image), among the **Full Supporters** of action against Osama, 42%. On the other hand among the net gain in Image among **Qualified Supporters** was only -8% while among the **opponents** the shift was negative, at -33%. Among President Obama's American constituents his image increased by a net gain of 24% points.

Mr. Jean-Marc Leger, President of the WIN/GIA Association stated that this is indeed a significant moment in President Obama's presidency. While not all of the world agrees with the result of the action against Osama bin Laden, the American action is viewed in a positive light and can significantly increase the image of the President.

The detailed country by country results of the first global poll of opinions on the death of Osama bin Laden is available upon request, and it will be supplemented by views from an additional list of countries in end June, 2011.

Methodology:

The 25 country poll included in this study are based on national probability samples, conducted **face to face** (in 11 countries; n=10,300); **telephone** (in 7 countries; n=4,909) and online (in 7 countries; n=5,786). Altogether the sample size was 20,995. Wherever needed samples have been weighted to census distribution covered for each country in the study (see details ahead). In 7 countries (details provided ahead) the surveyed population did not include all or parts of rural areas. Field work was conducted during May 11-June 2, 2011. The error margin depends on the size and type of sample used in every country. But in general the size and types of samples used in this study will have an error margin of ±2-5% at 95% confidence level.

Source: http://www.gallup.com.pk/obl/WIN-GIA%20Press%20Release.pdf

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176-31. Rising Food Prices Are Changing What We Eat, Reveals New Global Food Survey

World statesmen, actors and musicians start global conversation on food

15 June 2011

People around the world are changing what they eat because of the rising cost of food according to a new global survey released today as part of the GROW campaign. Agriculture Ministers from the powerful group of G20 countries are meeting in France next week and will discuss the global food price crisis.

The public opinion poll was conducted in 17 countries including Australia, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, UK and the USA.

Fifty-four per cent of respondents overall and a majority of people in most countries surveyed said they are not eating the same food as they did two years ago—the period before the current food price crisis began. Globally 39 per cent of those who said their diet had changed blamed the rising price of food and 33 per cent cited health reasons.

In Kenya, for example, a staggering 76 per cent of respondents said they have changed their diet with 79 per cent blaming the price of food and, of the 46 per cent of people who said their diet had changed in the UK, 41 per cent said it was because of the rising price of food. Similar results were found around the globe (see notes).

Cost was also by far the biggest food worry with 66 per cent of people globally citing it as one of their top concerns. 43 per cent of people said that the healthiness or nutritional value of the food they ate was also a key concern. However in poorer countries the availability of food was much more of an issue with 57 per cent of people in Kenya and 45 per cent in Tanzania citing it as one of their biggest food worries.

Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director of Oxfam said: "Our diets are changing fast and for too many people it is a change for the worst. Huge numbers of people, especially in the world's poorest countries, are cutting back on the quantity or quality of the food they eat because of rising food prices. World leaders—especially leaders of the powerful G20 countries—must act now to fix our broken food system. They must regulate the commodity markets and reform flawed biofuels policies to keep food prices in check, and they must invest in small scale producers in developing countries and help them adapt to a changing climate."

The survey of over 16,000 people, conducted by international research consultancy GlobeScan, also revealed how globalisation is changing what people eat with pizza and pasta topping the list of favourite foods in many countries alongside national dishes. The only exceptions were African nations where traditional meals of maize continue to hold sway.

Oliver Martin, Research Director of GlobeScan said: "The consequences of the world-wide rise in food prices are very apparent in these survey results. The cost of food is by some distance the dominant concern that people have about what they and their family eat."

Additional interviews conducted by Oxfam provide further evidence that many people in developing countries are either eating less food, eating cheaper items or enjoying less diversity in their diets as a result of rising food prices. Women tend to be disproportionately affected by rising food prices because they are responsible for feeding their families.

Glenda Marisela Galindo Castro, a 22 year old shop assistant from Guatemala said: “Sugar used to be the most important thing for us. We added it to our coffee and to soft drinks but now we can’t because the price of sugar has gone up. Oil which used to cost 5 quetzals for half a litre now costs 8. I’m the only one who works and the wages I earn are not enough to cover my families’ needs.”

Edson James Kamba, aged 69, from Malawi said: “My favourite food is rice with beans and meat but it is very expensive. The price of food keeps going up. I would like some milk to drink but I can’t buy it. I used to have margarine and jam with bread but now I can’t afford it. When I see people on TV they are always eating very good things like meat, chicken and eggs. If I was there I would have those things. We want it but we can’t afford it.”

Oxfam’s GROW campaign is starting a global conversation on how we can grow and share food better now and in the future. High profile people involved in the debate include former President Lula of Brazil, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, musician Angelique Kidjo from Benin and actors Gael Garcia Bernal from Mexico, Kristin Davis from the US, Amr Waked from Egypt and Hai Qing from China.

Former President Lula of Brazil said: “Like many Brazilians I like nothing better than a plate of rice, beans, steak, onions and eggs. But like many in Brazil I have experienced hunger. There were many times when I woke in the morning with no bread for breakfast and nothing to look forward to for lunch. That part of my life was very important because it gave me the strength to survive and determination to fight for an end to world hunger. It’s not acceptable that a child ever goes without a daily glass of milk. It’s not acceptable that a child has less than three meals a day. These are fundamental rights.”

“Food is one of life’s greatest pleasures and one of our most basic human rights. It’s important we all get involved in the debate about how to change the way we grow and share food so everyone has enough to eat today and tomorrow. Oxfam’s GROW campaign is inviting people to join the debate now atwww.oxfam.org,” said Hobbs.

Source: http://www.globescan.com/news_archives/oxfam2011/

CYBER WORLD

176-32. Social Networking Sites and Our Lives

Pew Internet Project

June 16, 2011

Summary of Findings

Questions have been raised about the social impact of widespread use of social networking sites (SNS) like Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, and Twitter. Do these technologies isolate people and truncate their relationships? Or are there benefits associated with being connected to others in this way? The Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project decided to examine SNS in a survey that explored people's overall social networks and how use of these technologies is related to trust, tolerance, social support, and community and political engagement.

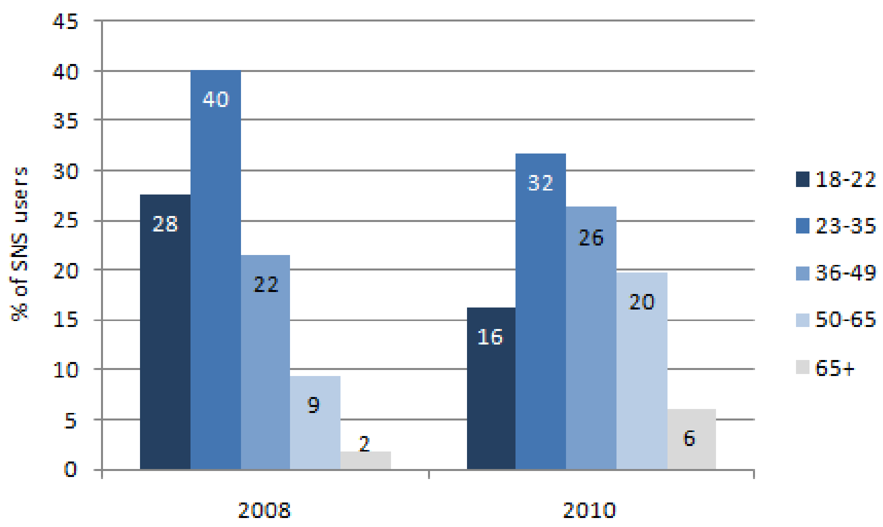
The findings presented here paint a rich and complex picture of the role that digital technology plays in people's social worlds. Wherever possible, we seek to disentangle whether people's varying social behaviors and attitudes are related to the different ways they use social networking sites, or to other relevant demographic characteristics, such as age, gender and social class.

The number of those using social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2008 and the population of SNS users has gotten older.

In this Pew Internet Project sample, 79% of American adults said they used the internet and nearly half of adults (47%), or 59% of internet users, say they use at least one of SNS. This is close to double the 26% of adults (34% of internet users) who used a SNS in 2008. Among other things, this means the average age of adult-SNS users has shifted from 33 in 2008 to 38 in 2010. Over half of all adult SNS users are now over the age of 35. Some 56% of SNS users now are female.

Age distribution of social networking site users in 2008 and 2010

% of social networking site users in each age group. For instance, in 2008, 28% of social networking sites users were 18-22, but in 2010 that age group made up 16% of social networking site users.



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Social Network Site survey conducted on landline and cell phone between October 20-November 28, 2010. N for full sample is 2,255 and margin of error is +/- 2.3 percentage points. N for social network site and Twitter users is 975 and margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points.

Facebook dominates the SNS space in this survey: 92% of SNS users are on Facebook; 29% use MySpace, 18% used LinkedIn and 13% use Twitter.

There is considerable variance in the way people use various social networking sites: 52% of Facebook users and 33% of Twitter users engage with the platform daily, while only 7% of MySpace and 6% of LinkedIn users do the same.

Frequency of use for users of different social networking site platforms

% of users on the following social networking sites who use that site with the following frequency. For instance, 3% of MySpace users use the site several times a day.

	MySpace	Facebook	LinkedIn	Twitter	Other SNS
Several times a day	3%	31%	3%	20%	15%
About once a day	5%	21%	3%	13%	17%
3-5 days a week	2%	15%	4%	6%	14%
1-2 days a week	17%	17%	18%	9%	16%
Every few weeks	12%	11%	28%	12%	19%
Less often	33%	5%	35%	23%	14%
Never	29%	1%	9%	18%	5%

Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Social Network Site survey conducted on landline and cell phone between October 20-November 28, 2010. N for full sample is 2,255 and margin of error is +/- 2.3 percentage points. N for social network site and Twitter users is 975 and margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points.

On Facebook on an average day:

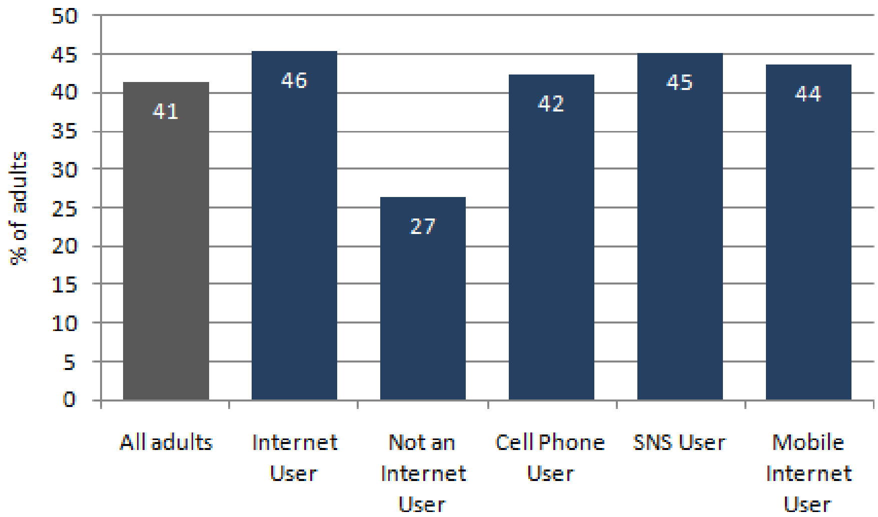
- 15% of Facebook users update their own status.
- 22% comment on another's post or status.
- 20% comment on another user's photos.
- 26% "Like" another user's content.
- 10% send another user a private message

Facebook users are more trusting than others.

We asked people if they felt "that most people can be trusted." When we used regression analysis to control for demographic factors, we found that the typical internet user is more than twice as likely as others to feel that people can be trusted. Further, we found that Facebook users are even more likely to be trusting. We used regression analysis to control for other factors and found that a Facebook user who uses the site multiple times per day is 43% more likely than other internet users and more than three times as likely as non-internet users to feel that most people can be trusted.

Those who agree that "most people can be trusted," by their technology use

% of adults in each group who agree that "most people can be trusted," by technology use. For instance, 46% of internet users agree that "most people can be trusted."



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Social Network Site survey conducted on landline and cell phone between October 20-November 28, 2010. N for full sample 2,255 and margin of error is +/- 2.3 percentage points. N for Facebook users=877 and margin of error is +/- 3.6 percentage points.

Facebook users have more close relationships.

The average American has just over two discussion confidants (2.16) -- that is, people with whom they discuss important matters. This is a modest, but significantly larger number than the average of 1.93 core ties reported when we asked this same question in 2008. Controlling for other factors we found that someone who uses Facebook several times per day averages 9% more close, core ties in their overall social network compared with other internet users.

Facebook users get more social support than other people.

We looked at how much total support, emotional support, companionship and instrumental aid adults receive. On a scale of 100, the average American scored 75/100 on a scale of total support, 75/100 on emotional support (such as receiving advice), 76/100 in companionship (such as having people to spend time with), and 75/100 in instrumental aid (such as having someone to help if they are sick in bed).

Internet users in general score three points higher in total support, six points higher in companionship, and four points higher in instrumental support. A Facebook user who uses the site multiple times per day tends to score an additional five points higher in total support, five points higher in emotional support, and five points higher in companionship, than internet users of similar demographic characteristics. For Facebook users, the additional boost is equivalent to about half the total support that the average American receives as a result of being married or cohabitating with a partner.

Facebook users are much more politically engaged than most people.

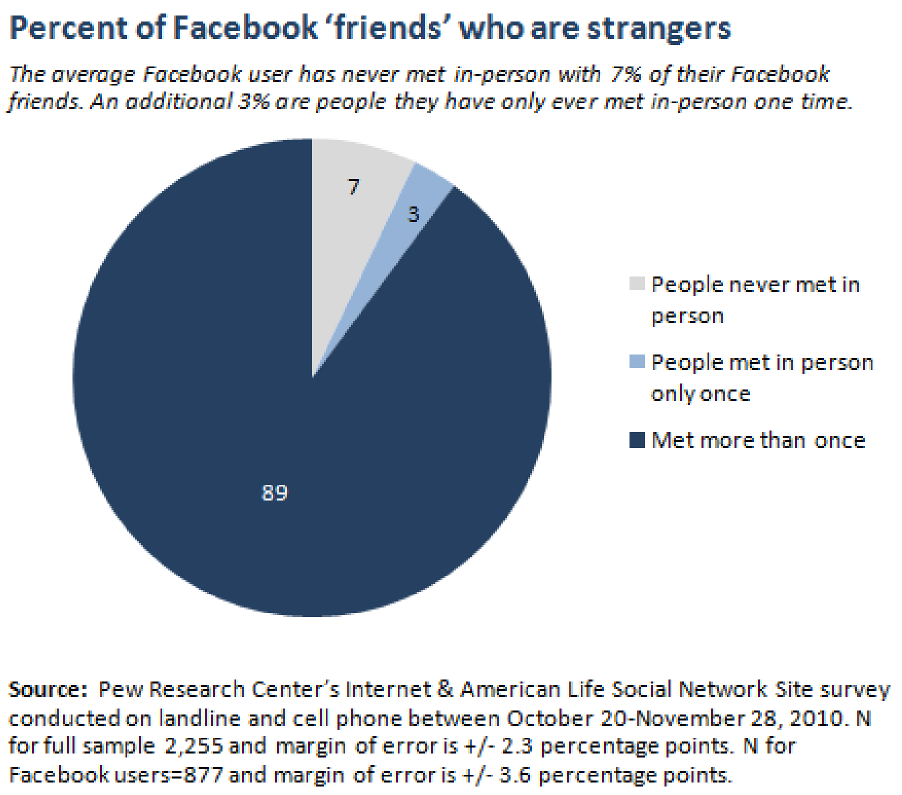
Our survey was conducted over the November 2010 elections. At that time, 10% of Americans reported that they had attended a political rally, 23% reported that they had tried to convince someone to vote for a specific candidate, and 66% reported that they had or intended to vote. Internet users in general were over twice as likely to attend a political meeting, 78% more likely to try and influence someone's vote, and 53% more likely to have voted or intended to vote. Compared with other internet users, and users of other SNS platforms, a Facebook user who uses the site multiple times per day was an additional two and half times more likely to attend a political rally or meeting, 57% more likely to persuade someone on their vote, and an additional 43% more likely to have said they would vote.

Facebook revives "dormant" relationships.

In our sample, the average Facebook user has 229 Facebook friends. They reported that their friends list contains:

- 22% people from high school.
- 12% extended family.
- 10% coworkers.
- 9% college friends.
- 8% immediate family.
- 7% people from voluntary groups.
- 2% neighbors.

Over 31% of Facebook friends cannot be classified into these categories. However, only 3% of Facebook friends are people users have never met in person, and only 7% are people who have met only one time. The remainder is friends-of-friends and social ties that are not currently active relationships, but "dormant" ties that may, at some point in time, become an important source of information.



Social networking sites are increasingly used to keep up with close social ties.

Looking only at those people that SNS users report as their core discussion confidants, 40% of users have friended all of their closest confidants. This is a substantial increase from the 29% of users who reported in our 2008 survey that they had friended all of their core confidants.

MySpace users are more likely to be open to opposing points of view.

We measured "perspective taking," or the ability of people to consider multiple points of view. There is no evidence that SNS users, including those who use Facebook, are any more likely than others to cocoon themselves in social networks of like-minded and similar people, as some have feared.

Moreover, regression analysis found that those who use MySpace have significantly higher levels of perspective taking. The average adult scored 64/100 on a scale of perspective taking, using regression analysis to control for demographic factors, a MySpace user who uses the site a half dozen times per month tends to score about eight points higher on the scale.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2025/social-impact-social-networking-sites-technology-facebook-twitter-linkedin-myspace

176-33. The Mobile Wallet: An End To Flashing Your Cash?

10 June 2011

Will the mobile wallet sound the death knell of cash? The latest research by YouGov shows almost one quarter (23%) of people are interested in using their mobile phone instead of cash to pay for purchases. YouGov analysts expect take up of this so-called “wave and pay” technology to be rapid.

This prediction is based on the findings that 10% are likely to use the service in the future. And while 5% agree that they will get the technology as soon as it's available, the vast majority - almost a half (48%) – won't be rushing to swap their real wallet for their mobile wallet. These respondents agreed it's a good idea but they will only consider mobile payments when any issues have been ironed out.

Reasons why consumers would get a handset with mobile payment capabilities	
The convenience to pay	87%
Speed of paying (i.e. tapping at a machine)	67%
Easier to pay with mobile than taking cash/cards with	67%
Better for the environment (e.g. no paper receipts)	37%
No paper receipts so less change of losing any personal information	35%
I will be able to keep track of how much I am spending more easily than other methods	29%
Less likely to have fraud	17%
I want to have the latest piece of technology	14%
Other	3%
Don’t know	4%
Source: YouGov Mobile Wallet Track May 2011 *Base: 170 respondents who are likely to get mobile wallet*	

When it comes to awareness levels, more than a third (36%) of respondents admitted they didn't know if their existing phone was enabled to make cashless payments with a technology known as Near Field Communications (NFC). As Russell Feldman, the YouGov Consultant who led the research says, “Many consumers are attracted by the idea of paying for items via their mobile phone. Retailers, mobile operators and handset manufacturers have a real opportunity to educate consumers about the advantages of paying – particularly for smaller items – in this way. We believe once people have seen it in practice they will be quick to adopt it."

The top perceived benefits for those planning to use NFC in the future are: convenience to pay (87%); the speed of paying (67%); easier than carrying cash and cards (67%); better for the environment (37%); less chance of losing personal information than with paper receipts (35%); being able to keep track of spending more easily (29%). (See Table)

Of those respondents that said they would be likely to adopt the cash-free payment technology for their mobile, they can see themselves buying everything from small purchases like sandwiches, magazines and newspapers (81%), to more expensive items such as CDs, DVDs and games (65%). More than a third (39%) could see themselves making bigger investments including games consoles, clothes and even the weekly shop.

There are concerns about mobile payment technology that could hold back mass consumer adoption. The main reason for respondents not planning to use mobile payment in the future is that they are happy with the way they pay now (67%). There are also concerns about security and fraud (56%), some respondents say they either don't need a mobile payment system or aren't interested (both at 45%). 44% are concerned about viruses or malware that could steal details from their phones.

Even those already planning to adopt the technology have concerns - security and fraud (79%) and viruses and malware (66%) are the top two worries for this group – suggesting that these early adopters are more technologically savvy than others in the survey.

As Feldman concludes, "There will always be consumer concerns about adopting any new technology, from data security to theft, changing mobile providers to correcting mistaken payments. Consumers need to see that these genuine worries have been addressed before they wholeheartedly embrace mobile payments. Our research suggests that consumers see using NFC technology as inevitable, and they are expecting supermarkets, mobile phone and consumer electronics retailers to be the first retailers to offer contactless payments."

Source: http://www.yougov.co.uk/corporate/pdf/YG-press-MobileWalletEndToFlashingCash.pdf

176-34. Consumers In U.S. Have Little Concern Over Cell Phone Cancer Risk

June 16th, 2011

Despite being aware of the dangers, majority of consumers to continue normal use

New York, NY - June 16, 2011 - Over eighty percent of U.S. consumers surveyed, report being aware of the recent news released by the World Health Organization (WHO) that extensive cell phone use can increase possible cancer risk. Yet, despite having this knowledge, less than twenty percent will adjust their current behavior.

The survey, conducted by TNS, a global leader in market information, asked respondents to identify which behaviors they were most likely to adapt in light of knowing about the recent WHO report. Eight (8%) percent of respondents said they would decrease the overall usage of their cell phones and a similar eight percent, said they were now considering the purchase of a hands free device. While 17% of respondents did acknowledge the news is leading them to use their current hands free device more often, a surprising 70% said their cell phone behaviors would not change at all.

"The high degree of awareness about the recent news and relatively low rates of change in behavior really demonstrate the ubiquity of mobile usage and its importance in daily life, said Charles White, Senior Vice President at TNS. ""Given the direct correlation between radiation emitted by cell phones and cancer rates remains unclear, I think the risks would need to be much more pronounced to see significant impact on usage."

Based on the results of TNS' recent Mobile Life study, this reliance on mobile is only likely to grow, as U.S. mobile users report 38% of their personal messages are sent via mobile vs., a computer, while globally that number is 65% suggesting there is room to grow for the intensity of mobile usage.

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About TNS

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

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