BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 180

Week: July 10-16, 2011

Presentation: July 20, 2011

M. Zubair

Introductory Note

This week report consists of 40 surveys from across the globe. Eight of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 32 are national surveys.

SUMMARY OF POLLS

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Tunisians Concerned about their States’ Direction, Security & Economy Highest Concern

As in the March poll, security and economic concerns remain the most pressing issues for Tunisians. However, security appears to have become a much higher priority in recent months. The survey indicates a steep decline in confidence for the transition period. (IRI)

July 2011

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Values, Dreams and Ideals: Muslims Youth in South East Asia

They are content, satisfied and optimistic about their lives and their respective countries’ futures. Though their social and religious views are still conservative and even fatalistic in some aspects, they have a positive self-image. All in all, they are energetic, creative, hardworking and ambitious, and see the importance of getting a quality education. (Lembaga Survei Indonesia & Merdeka Center Malaysia)

July 2011

NORTH EAST ASIA

LDP More Unpopular After Earthquake

Six in ten Japanese dissatisfied with Mr. Kan cabinet in Japan. Over two third dissatisfied with his response to the earthquake. LDP slightly more popular than DPJ. (Asahi Shimbun)

April 2011

EAST EUROPE

Poland: Fear Of Terrorism After Osama Bin Laden's Death

The news of Osama bin Laden's death has divided Polish society - the percentage of people who think that he should have been caught and then put on trial is slightly higher than the percentage of people who believe it is better that he was killed without trial. (CBOS)

May 2011

Poland: Sense Of Security And Attitude To Death Penalty

Three quarters (75%) of adult Poles consider Poland to be a safe country and only a fifth (22%) think the opposite. Opinions in this respect have improved in comparison to the previous survey, and are presently at their best since political transformation in Poland. They can be compared to attitudes from the final years of People's Republic. (CBOS)

May 2011

How Many Potential Emigrants Are There In Russia?

Touristic trip is the main reason why Russians would like to go abroad (80%, in 1991 - 48%). The share of those who want to go abroad to get permanent residence has considerably increased (from 5 to 21%), to work (from 13 to 20%), to study (from 5 to 13%). At the same time, the share of those who go abroad to see relatives has slightly decreased (from 18 to 13%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)

June 10, 2011

1991 Presidential Elections: View Of Russians 20 Years Later

Remembering the presidential elections of 1991, most of Russians report they voted for Yeltsin (29% versus 12% who voted against him). Over the recent 15 years the share of those who supported Yeltsin has dramatically decreased (in 1996 - 49%). The remainder of respondents could not take part in elections due to age restrictions (36%), or refused to take part in the voting (12%). (Russian Public Opinion Research Centre)

June 09, 2011

WEST EUROPE

Concern about Britain’s ageing population - including social care and pensions - increases this month

The July Economist/Ipsos MORI Issues Index shows that concern about Britain’s ageing population is gradually increasing among the public. Concern about our ageing society/ social care has more than doubled in the last two months, with one in twelve people now saying that it is among the most important issues facing Britain (8%). Fieldwork took place during coverage of the Dilnot Review on the future of social care. (Ipsos Mori)

July 15, 2011

Majority of Public Support EU’s Ban on Seal Products (Multi-country survey)

More than seven in ten adults (72%) across the 11 European countries surveyed say they support the EU’s ban on the sale of seal products in Europe according to new research carried out by Ipsos MORI. (Ipsos Mori)

July 15, 2011

E-Communications Household Survey (Multi-country survey)

Overall, the distribution of the types of telephone access in the EU population has not changed significantly since winter 2009. A majority of households have both mobile and fixed telephone access (62%). A quarter (27%) have mobile only access and one in ten (9%) only have fixed telephone access. (TNS)

July 2011

Youth Attitudes on Drugs (Multi-country survey)

Young people considered cannabis to be the most easily accessible of the illicit substances. They used Internet for getting drug related information. (Gallup Hungary)

July 2011

Half of Britons Would Vote to Leave the European Union in a Referendum

The level of animosity towards the European Union (EU) in Britain remains high, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. Only one third of respondents believe EU membership has been positive for the United Kingdom.

July 12, 2011

NORTH AMERICA

"Republican Candidate" Extends Lead vs. Obama to 47% to 39%

Registered voters by a significant margin now say they are more likely to vote for the "Republican Party's candidate for president" than for President Barack Obama in the 2012 election, 47% to 39%. Preferences had been fairly evenly divided this year in this test of Obama's re-election prospects. (Gallup USA)

July 14, 2011

Christie Ahead of Obama in Hypothetical, 6 Others in Dead Heat With President

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has a four-point lead in a hypothetical Presidential race against Barack Obama, while Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty, Ron Paul, Herman Cain, Rick Perry and Michele Bachmann are in statistical ties with Obama, a new IBOPE Zogby survey finds. (Zogby-Ibope)

July 12, 2011

Majority Prefer Cuts Over Revenue Increases

Nine in 10 voters say it is important for Congress and President Barack Obama to reduce the nation’s long-term debt, and a majority prefer spending cuts over increased revenues as the means of accomplishing that goal, a new IBOPE Zogby Interactive poll finds. (Zogby-Ibope)

July 11, 2011

U.S. Satisfaction Slides to Two-Year Low

Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the country fell to 16% in July, the lowest in more than two years. Satisfaction approached this level in December 2010, when it descended to 17%, but it has not registered as low as 16% since February 2009 -- President Barack Obama's first full month in office -- when it was 15%. (Gallup USA)

July 14, 2011

On Deficit, Americans Prefer Spending Cuts; Open to Tax Hikes

Americans' preferences for deficit reduction clearly favor spending cuts to tax increases, but most Americans favor a mix of the two approaches. Twenty percent favor an approach that relies only on spending cuts and 4% favor an approach that uses tax increases alone. (Gallup USA)

July 13, 2011

Majority of Republicans Can't Name a 2012 Favorite

More than half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 58%, do not express a preference when asked in an open-ended format -- with no candidates' names read -- whom they are most likely to support for the party's 2012 presidential nomination. Those who do have a preference most often mention Mitt Romney and Michele Bachmann. (Gallup USA)

July 15, 2011

For First Time, Majority in U.S. Supports Public Smoking Ban

A majority of Americans (59%) support a ban on smoking in all public places for the first time since Gallup initially asked the question in 2001. At the same time, fewer than 2 in 10 support the idea of making smoking totally illegal in this country. (Gallup USA)

July 15, 2011

Congress' Approval Entrenched at 18% as Debt Talks Continue

A low and seemingly entrenched congressional job approval rating of 18% provides the backdrop for negotiations as congressional leaders work to reach a compromise on the federal budget and the U.S. debt ceiling. This is essentially unchanged from last month's 17% and reflective of the 20% average for the first seven months of 2011. (Gallup USA)

July 11, 2011

Americans Express Mixed Confidence in Criminal Justice System

Prior to the recent verdict in the Casey Anthony trial, Americans had middling confidence in the nation's criminal justice system. Twenty-eight percent interviewed June 9-12 said they had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the system, 42% had some, and 29% very little or none. (Gallup USA)

July 11, 2011

Recession Persists in Terms of Americans' Access to Basic Needs

More Americans continue to struggle to access basic necessities than before the 2008 economic crisis. The U.S. earned a Basic Access Index score of 82.0 in June -- about on par with the low point of 81.5 recorded in February and March of 2009 -- and down compared with 83.6 measured in June 2008. (Gallup USA)

July 15, 2011

The Debt Ceiling Showdown – Where the Public Stands

The nation is headed toward a possible government default on Aug. 2 if no agreement is reached to raise the debt ceiling. The public is still coming to grips with this complex issue, but recent Pew Research Center surveys show that opinions are beginning to take shape. (Pew Research Center)

July 14, 2011

Public Now Divided on Debt Limit Debate

As the debate over the nation's debt and deficit continues, the public has grown more concerned that failing to raise the debt limit would force the government into default and hurt the economy. Despite this change, however, about as many Americans are concerned by the consequences of raising the nation's debt limit as by the fallout from not doing so. (Pew Research Center)

July 11, 2011

Attention to Debt Ceiling Debate Doesn't Affect Policy Views

Echoing resistance to raising the nation's debt ceiling among the public at large, 53% of Americans who say they are following the issue very closely in the news want their member of Congress to vote against raising the debt limit, while 37% urge a vote in favor. (Gallup USA)
July 13, 2011

U.S. Debt Ceiling Increase Remains Unpopular With Americans

Despite agreement among leaders of both sides of the political aisle in Washington that raising the U.S. debt ceiling is necessary, more Americans want their member of Congress to vote against such a bill than for it, 42% vs. 22%, while one-third are unsure. This 20-percentage-point edge in opposition to raising the debt ceiling in Gallup's July 7-10 poll is slightly less than the 28-point lead (47% vs. 19%) seen in May. (Gallup USA)
July 12, 2011

Sarah Palin Evokes Strong Emotions Among Republicans

Sarah Palin -- who has not yet announced whether she will run for president -- remains a formidable presence among Republicans nationwide. She is almost universally recognized, and her current Positive Intensity Score ties her with Mitt Romney, trailing only Herman Cain and Michele Bachmann. (Gallup USA)
July 12, 2011

No Improvement in U.S. Economic Confidence in July

Americans' economic confidence remains near its 2011 low, averaging -34 in the week ending July 10. Gallup's Economic Confidence Index has not shown any improvement in the last five weeks after a decline in early June. Last year at this time, the Index was -36, suggesting there has been no year-over-year improvement. (Gallup USA)
July 12, 2011

The Mexican-American Boom: Births Overtake Immigration

Births have overtaken immigration as the main driver of the dynamic growth in the U.S. Hispanic population. This new trend is especially evident among the largest of all Hispanic groups -- Mexican-Americans,1according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. (Pew Research Center)
July 14, 2011

Majority Of Middle Market Companies View Health Insurance Brokers And Agents As Valued Partners

The importance of health insurance brokers and agents over the next three years -- especially those who specialize in employee health benefits -- will be increasing sharply in the eyes of middle market decision makers. This is based on a recent survey, conducted by TNS, a world leader in market information. (TNS USA)
July 14, 2011

Five Banks Gain Share Among Affluent Households

In a robust, large-scale study of 4,600 affluent consumers, TNS found five banks that have achieved material organic growth in their affluent customer base over the past two years. All of these had superior performance in terms of acquiring and retaining affluent customers. (TNS USA)
July 12, 2011

Obama Gains Five Points, But Remains Below 50% Mark in U.S.

As discussions about the debt ceiling intensify, the approval rating for U.S. President Barack Obama has experienced a jump, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. Only about one-in-five Americans provide a positive assessment of the U.S. Congress. (Angus-Reid)

July 12, 2011

Seven-in-Ten Canadians Want to Directly Elect Their Senators

Animosity towards the upper house is highest in Quebec, where 43 per cent of respondents think Canada does not need a Senate. The views of Canadians on the Senate have remained consistent over the past two years, with a clear majority of respondents calling for the chance to elect the members of the Red Chamber, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. (Angus-Reid)

July 12, 2011

AUSTRALASIA

Only 37% Of Australians Support The Gillard Government's Carbon Tax

37% (up 5%) of Australians when asked for their view of Global Warming believe "Concerns are exaggerated," 46% (down 4% from June 2011) say "If we don't act now it will be too late," and 14% (down 1%) say "It is already too late." 58% (up 5%) of Australian electors oppose the Gillard Government's proposed Carbon Tax, 37% (unchanged) support the Carbon Tax legislation and 5% can't say. (Roy Morgan)

July 15, 2011

L-NP (60.5%) Record Lead Over ALP (39.5%). First Poll After Prime Minister Gillard Announces Details Of Carbon Tax

In the first Australia-wide voting intention poll conducted since Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the details of the Carbon Tax the latest telephone Morgan Poll conducted over the last two nights, July 13/14, 2011 shows the L-NP 60.5% with a record winning lead over the ALP 39.5% - the worst Two-Party preferred voting result for Labor since the first Roy Morgan Gallup Poll conducted in May 1942.

(Roy Morgan)

July 15, 2011

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

U.S. Status as World's Superpower Challenged by Rise of China

In most regions of the world, opinion of the United States continues to be more favorable than it was in the Bush years, but U.S. image now faces a new challenge: doubts about America's superpower status. In 15 of 22 nations, the balance of opinion is that China either will replace or already has replaced the United States as the world's leading superpower. This view is especially widespread in Western Europe, where at least six-in-ten in France (72%), Spain (67%), Britain (65%) and Germany (61%) see China overtaking the U.S. (Pew Research Center)

July 13, 2011

Dollar Trumps Euro in Former Soviet Union Countries

Residents of former Soviet Union countries in 2010 for the most part said they would prefer to keep any extra money they have in their local currency, but they preferred U.S. dollars over euros by a margin of 29% to 9%. Hardly any residents would keep their extra funds in Russian rubles. (Gallup USA)

July 14, 2011

International Connections Fan Desire to Migrate

Gallup's data on international migration desires in 146 countries continue to reinforce the important role that transnational social networks play in migration. Adults who can rely on help from friends and family in other countries when they need it are nearly three times more likely to say they would like to migrate (30%) than those who do not have these types of networks (11%). (Gallup USA)

July 12, 2011

CYBER WORLD

Smartphone Adoption and Usage

In its first standalone measure of smartphone ownership, the Pew Internet Project finds that one third of American adults – 35% – own smartphones. The Project's May survey found that 83% of US adults have a cell phone of some kind, and that 42% of them own a smartphone. That translates into 35% of all adults. (Pew Research Center)

Jul 11, 2011

Canada's Love Affair with Online Social Networking Continues

If you want to learn how Canadians are communicating and interacting online, look no further than social networking sites. According to Ipsos' most recent Canadian Interactive Reid Report special feature on Social Networking, one-half of all Canadians (50%) and the majority of online Canadians (60%) now have a social networking profile. (Ipsos US)

July 14, 2011

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

180-43-1. Tunisians Concerned about their States' Direction, Security & Economy Highest Concern

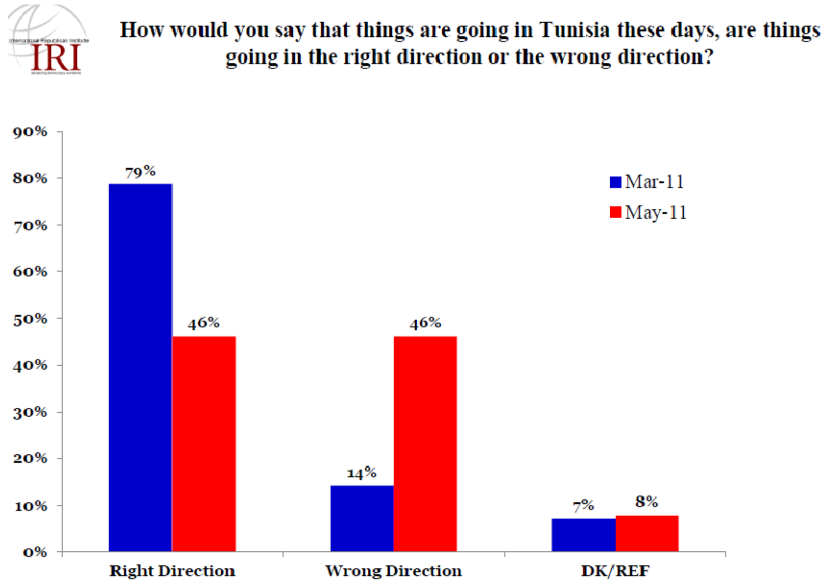
IRI Tunisia analysis

Indicators

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

Independent public opinion surveys were not permitted under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and today there is a high demand for current survey data to provide Tunisian civil society and government officials an important tool to understand and respond to citizen priorities. This poll was conducted from May 14-27, 2011, and serves as a complement to an earlier IRI survey conducted from March 5-18, 2011. This survey implemented a door-to-door, household interview methodology representative of Tunisia's 24 provinces.

Since IRI's last poll was conducted, protests have decreased considerably and the political climate has become somewhat calmer. However, the transition process remains fragile and contentious. On the evening of May 22 the Independent Higher Election Authority suggested that elections – originally scheduled for July 24 – be postponed until October 16. The interim government and several political parties initially rejected any postponement. After a protracted public dispute, during which the Higher Election Authority threatened to resign en masse, the elections were postponed until October 23.



During the fieldwork for IRI's poll, elections were scheduled for July 24. A total of 954 interviews were conducted before the first announcement that the elections might be postponed; after that announcement and until the end of fieldwork on May 27, while the election date was in dispute, a total of 327 interviews were conducted. Since the official date of elections remained the same throughout fieldwork, and the possibility of a postponement was well-known in advance of the May 22 announcement, results were not compromised.

As in the March poll, security and economic concerns remain the most pressing issues for Tunisians. However, security appears to have become a much higher priority in recent months. When asked to cite their first, second and third choice of top priority for the interim government, 36 percent of respondents chose security as their first choice, and 71 percent mentioned it as either their first, second or third choice. While 72 percent of respondents mentioned employment, only 27 percent mentioned it first. This is in contrast to the March poll, when security was not mentioned as a top priority by any significant number of respondents.

Similarly, the survey asked what the single biggest problem facing Tunisia as a whole was, asking respondents to cite their top three problems. Responses were far more varied than in March, and included the economic and financial crisis, terrorism, strikes and sit-ins, corruption, and delinquency and vandalism. However, the top two responses – internal security and unemployment – were the same. Internal security was most often cited in respondents' first mention (28 percent) followed by unemployment (16 percent). Collectively, internal security was mentioned either first, second or third as the top problem 63 percent of the time. Unemployment was mentioned either first, second or third 56 percent of the time.

Key findings of the poll are as follows:

The survey indicates a steep decline in confidence for the transition period. While the vast majority of respondents in March (79 percent) believed the country was headed in the right direction, only 46 percent said so in May. This level is equal to the 46 percent who said the country is headed in the wrong direction, up from 14 percent in March.

Tunisians are concerned about the state of their economy, with 73 percent indicating that the economic situation is somewhat bad or very bad.

Enthusiasm for democracy remains high, with 93 percent of respondents indicating they are very likely or somewhat likely to vote in elections and just six percent saying they are not likely to do so. Yet voters are unsure who they will support, with 72 percent responding they do not know who they would vote for in constituent assembly elections.

Of the respondents who disapproved of a secular government in Tunisia, the overwhelming majority (80 percent) said they would prefer a moderately Islamist constituent assembly, while only 14 percent indicated a preference for strongly Islamist parties.

Bearing in mind that internal security is a concern among a majority of Tunisians, the survey shows the National Army remains the most trusted institution with 83 percent of respondents stating they trust the army a great deal. This compares with 69 percent who said they trust citizen security groups that have emerged since Ben Ali's departure. Trust in the national police has risen considerably since March, with 47 percent indicating they trust the national police a great deal, an increase of 17 percent from only two months prior. The national police still registered the strongest negative feelings with 18 percent of respondents claiming they do not trust the police at all, but that is still a decrease of 14 percent compared to responses to the same question in March.

Economy

o Tunisians increasingly feel the country is moving in the wrong direction, but a majority is still confident the economy will improve over the next year. This suggests the country continues to experience a positive atmosphere in the aftermath of the revolution.

o Tunisians are about evenly split on their household's financial situation during the past year with 33 percent saying it had gotten better, 30 percent saying it had gotten worse and 37 percent saying it had not changed.

o A troubling 28 percent of Tunisians said they have difficulty feeding themselves, their families and buying the most essential things for survival. This compares with 43 percent who said they have means for survival but not enough money for extra things, and 21 percent who said they are able to afford things like new clothes and eating at restaurants.

o Thinking ahead to next year, Tunisians' expectations for the economy have been somewhat tempered since March. Seventy-one percent believe their household's financial situation will be better in the next year, including 28 percent of respondents who believe it will be much better, compared to 84 percent and 35 percent, respectively, in March.

Political Transition

o The survey asked respondents about the commissions created by Tunisia's interim government to deal with issues of corruption, political reform and human rights violations. A wide majority (82 percent) said they had heard of these commissions.

o When asked about the individual commissions' set-up to deal with these issues, respondents had the most confidence in the Political Reform Commission led by Iyadh Ben Achour. Fifty-five percent of respondents indicated they were confident in the Political Reform Commission as compared with 52 percent who said they were confident in the Human Rights Commission and 48 percent who were confident in the Corruption Commission. These levels of confidence are largely unchanged since March.

o Over the course of the transition Tunisians may become more politically independent. Forty-five percent of respondents in the latest poll stated their head of household had at least some influence on their political opinions, compared to 69 percent who said so in March. A similar decline in influence was apparent for religious, union and political party leaders.

o The survey indicates a complex divide between religion and secularism among Tunisians. Only 23 percent of respondents claimed to know what the difference is between a secular and non-secular government. Upon hearing the definition, 54 percent approved of a secular government while only 40 percent disapproved.

o Although a narrow majority of Tunisians (54 percent) approve of a secular government, a similar number (51 percent) said they would prefer to see a moderately Islamist constituent assembly. Only eight percent said they would prefer a strongly Islamist assembly, while only three percent indicated they would prefer it to be strongly secular. Among those who disapproved of a secular government, the overwhelming majority (80 percent) said they would prefer a moderately Islamist constituent assembly, while only 14 percent indicated a preference for strongly Islamist parties.

o When asked why they would approve a secular government, the plurality of respondents (47 percent) replied it would guarantee freedom, democracy and equality; 27 percent indicated that they preferred to keep religion separate from politics. Those who disapproved of a secular government cited a number of explanations, including that Islam has solutions for every sector (26 percent), and that they like a government based on religion (16 percent). Only two percent claimed they disapprove of secularism because it comes from the West.

o Respondents were asked whether security, unemployment, political reform, corruption and other issues had improved or worsened over the past year. Responses were mixed but generally positive, with the largest perceived improvement in the development of an independent civil society (63 percent noted improvement) and media (76 percent noted improvement).

o A majority of respondents said the current government was either very likely (27 percent) or somewhat likely (32 percent) to deal with the issues mentioned above. This demonstrates a decline in Tunisians’ expectations of their interim government since March, when an overwhelming majority (82 percent) responded that the government was very likely or somewhat likely to solve these problems.

Elections

o One of the proposed systems for the constituent assembly elections is a proportional, closed list. Twenty-six percent of Tunisians said they are familiar with such a system, while 46 percent said they are not. In response to a description of a proportional closed list system, 53 percent of respondents said they would support such a system, while 29 percent said they would oppose it.

o A majority of respondents (53 percent) also indicated that the 50 percent quota for women delegates in the constituent assembly is too high, while 41 percent said it was the right amount. Of those who believed the quota was too high, a 24 percent quota was deemed more appropriate for the constituent assembly.

o While 93 percent of respondents indicated they are very likely or somewhat likely to vote in elections, voters are unsure who they will support. In fact, 72 percent responded that they do not know who they would vote for in constituent assembly elections.

International Relations

o Tunisians have generally a positive view of international organizations. Majorities indicated they approve of the World Bank (71 percent), the European Union (72 percent), the United Nations (66 percent), the Arab League (60 percent) and the Union for the Mediterranean (51 percent), a multilateral organization comprising 43 countries from Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans with the goal of supporting economic, political and socio-cultural cooperation. One exception to this pattern is NATO, of which 36 percent of respondents disapproved, while only 34 percent expressed approval.

Information and Media

o The survey asked where Tunisians turn for local news and information asking that they cite no more than three choices from a list. Television was by far the most frequent first response at 59 percent, radio was next at 13 percent and the Internet was third at 12 percent.

Source:http://www.iri.org/sites/default/files/2011%20July%2012%20IRI%20Tunisia%20Index,%20May%2014-27,%202011.pdf

---

SOUTH EAST ASIA

180-43-2. Values, Dreams and Ideals: Muslims Youth in South East Asia

This survey was initiated by the Goethe-Institut and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in 2010 to portray the condition of Muslim youth in Malaysia and Indonesia. The participants are males and females between the ages of 15 and 25, with educational levels ranging from elementary school to universities, both religious and public institutions. The respondents live in urban and rural areas, are married or single, are currently working or unemployed, and some have also used their right to vote. These youth have the full potential, energy and idealism to make their way in the job market and to become future leaders of their countries.

The survey's focus is to analyse five basic aspects of the lives of Muslim youth in both countries: personal development, family orientation, religion, social environment, lifestyle, values, and politics. This report will try to make a comparative analysis of the survey's findings in Indonesia and Malaysia by critically describing, explaining and interpreting their similarities and differences, as well as the various ways in which they are intertwined.

Personal Development

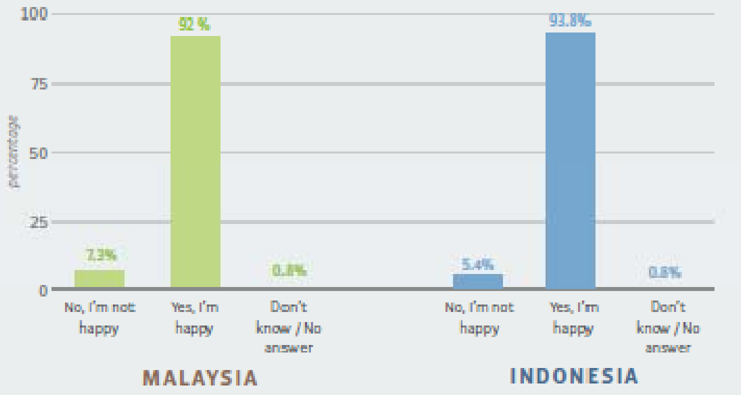
Malaysian And Indonesian Youths Are Generally Happy With Their Life And Look Optimistically Into The Future.

The survey has found that there are no significant differences between Muslim youth in Indonesia and Malaysia when it comes to their personal development. Generally, they view themselves as a happy group with a positive and optimistic outlook, and are happy with their life today. Their characteristics and self-image convey the image of energetic, creative, and self-confident young people who are keen to learn new things, embrace technology, and are hardworking, ambitious and driven to be rich and successful.

An important factor in the personal development of young people is the domestic environment in which they are raised. Educational institutions, traditional values, the interpretation of religious teachings, the media, government policies and social values also play their part. The Indonesian and Malaysian Muslim youth who took the survey both grew up after their countries gained independence.

FIGURE 2

All in all, are you happy with your life?



They are being raised amid rapid economic growth and modernisation, fast changing technology, globalisation, as well as changes in family structure and rising individualism. They are also exposed to a variety of information from print and electronic media to issues such as religious fundamentalism, the conflict between Israel and Palestine, and tensions between Islam and developed Western countries. The respondents have been exposed to advertising offering consumerist and hedonist lifestyles that raise their desire for brand name products.

Muslim youth in both countries are optimistic about their own future and the future of their respective countries. Most of them are certain that their economic circumstances will improve. Only a relative few are pessimistic and gloomy about their country's future.

The contentment with their lives, particularly that of Malaysia's youth, is understandable, because Malaysia has been politically and economically stable, particularly over the past decade. Although Malaysia was affected by the global economic crisis like its neighbouring countries, the economy did not collapse due to the preventive measures taken by the government. Malaysia was also not hit by any major natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes or flooding. The same response is somewhat surprising among Indonesian youth: the country's economy has not completely recovered since the destabilisation caused by the 1997 monetary crisis, natural disasters shake the country frequently, and it is very difficult for them to find jobs that offer a promising future.

Education is a major factor in personal development and an important vehicle in social mobility. Since Malaysian Muslim youth are widely supported in their education by the government of Malaysia, they are by and large well educated, with only 2.6% dropping out of school. They have a secondary school education, a diploma or equivalent degree, and many have university degrees. Muslim youth in Malaysia are fortunate to have a standardised education system in their country and education up to university level is accessible to most young people. There is little discrepancy between education levels of young people in rural and urban areas.

The Malaysian government and the private sector have started to develop vocational training for young people; vocational schools provide skills and expertise for the unemployed and university graduates who are looking for a job. Vocational training is not only meant to help young people obtain employment in the fast-growing industrial sector, it is also encouraging them to establish their own business. Given this availability of vocational training and education as well as steady economic growth, it is not surprising that most respondents state they are sure to get the education or job of their choice. Nevertheless, there is an anxiety among them that they may lose their jobs or fail in finding suitable jobs.

With Indonesian Muslim youth it is an entirely different story. Education, especially at university level, is still a luxury that is only accessible to the middle and upper classes, and one that is only available in urban areas. There are significant differences between young people in the cities and the villages. Unlike Malaysia, the management of education in Indonesia still contains many weaknesses. The clearest indication can be seen in the low number of funds allocated to develop the educational sector, the quality of school buildings, the recruitment process for teachers and the institutional system. Other weaknesses include low teachers' wages and subsidies, teachers' and students' welfare, the quality of teachers and the quality of graduates.

The dreams and hopes of youth in both countries comprise the same wishes, they all aspire to be successful and become rich business entrepreneurs, they all want to enjoy the good things in life.

The respondents' second main goal in life is to become good parents. All young Muslims in both countries share this goal. Lastly, when it comes to self-identification, Muslim youths in both countries tend to see themselves as Muslims first, and prefer to put their Islamic identity before their Indonesian or Malaysian national or ethnic identities. However, the percentage of Indonesian youths who take this viewpoint is lower than that of their Malaysian counterparts (47.5% to 79.9%), which clearly reveal the difficulty of nation building in multi-ethnic Malaysia more than it specifies religious belief: economic success comes relatively easy when compared to the long term achievement of realizing national integration and creating a national identity.

Family Orientation

Over 90% Of Muslim Youths In Indonesia And Malaysia Rega Rd Marriage And Family As Very Important

The majority has the opinion that raising a family makes one's life happier. Their certainty in gaining happiness in family life is influenced by their good relationship with their parents. They state that their parents have nurtured and raised them well. They also add that their parents mostly tell them what to do, which apparently does not bother them. Their acceptance of parental advice is deeply influenced by traditional values that require respect for older people, and is influenced by Islamic teachings that require obedience to one's parents.

Although Muslims youth in Malaysia regard the way their parents brought them up positively, only 24.2% wish to raise their children the same way that they were raised. On the other hand, more Indonesian Muslim youths (48.6%) state that they will raise their children the same way they were raised. More young people in Malaysia (35.5%) wish to bring up their children in a more religious manner, compared with a slightly lower percentage of their Indonesian counterparts.

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that more males than females wish to raise their children in a more religious manner, particularly among the Malay ethnic group living on the Malaysian peninsula rather than the Bumiputra1 indigenous population in Sabah and Sarawak. Moreover, the higher the respondents' education levels and accomplishments, the higher the percentage of those who wish to raise their children in a more religious manner than they were raised. Only a small number (2.5%) opted for a less religious upbringing for their children. About 20.1% wanted a stricter upbringing for their children, while 15.9% wished for a more loving upbringing for their children.

With respect to family types, most young Malaysian Muslims tend to want many children. Not one of the respondents merely wants one child. Such conditions could well be influenced by a conservative interpretation of Islam, where children are regarded as God's gift. Therefore, planning or limiting the number of children is viewed as a violation of Islamic law. They may, however, also be due to the financial and ideological encouragement by the Malaysian government, which generously supports large Muslim families.

In Indonesia the conservative view has changed. Only a few respondents wish to have more than two children. The change in this Islamic view has much to do with the New Order regime's request for Muslim scholars from the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah2 organisations to give their blessings and support to the Family Planning birth control programme in Indonesia, even though transnational Islamic organisations and parties who stridently reject birth control as haram (taboo) caused the programme to come to a standstill.

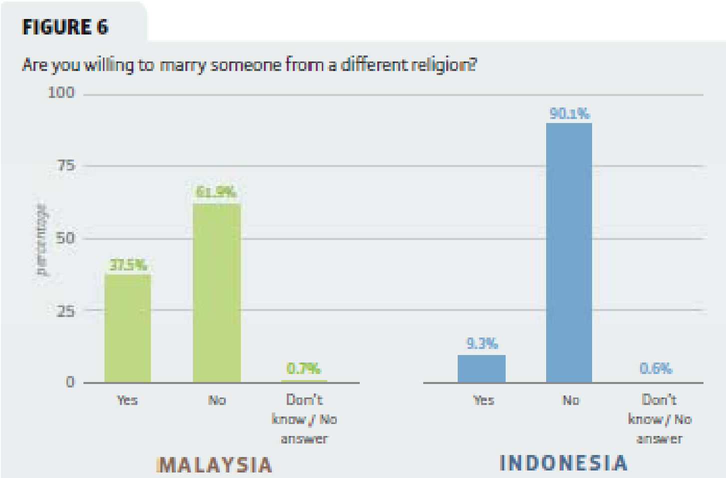
Religion

Muslim Youths In Indonesia And Malaysia Are Given Constant Reminders About Their Obligations To Be Good Muslims.

In Indonesia and Malaysia, Muslim youths receive their religious awareness from various sources. They include parents and siblings at home, as well as religious teachers, be they informal mentors at the mosque or formal teachers in school. Religious awareness can also be obtained from various activities in school or other religious activities from radio, television and internet, as well as through government policies. However, young people's knowledge of Islam is generally acquired from religious teachers and parents.

Muslim youths in Indonesia and Malaysia are given constant reminders about their obligations to be good Muslims and how to fulfill their obligations. They have been taught since they were young at home, at school and in their social environment that belief in God is an important, obligatory fundamental. Being a pious Muslim should therefore be an ideal for young people. The majority of the respondents say they were raised in religious or even very religious households, while only a few of them state that they were raised in non-religious households.

While many of the respondents come from religious households and about half of them pursued an education in religious schools not all of them always observe their religious obligations like praying five times a day, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan and reciting prayers from the al-Qur'an. Muslim youth in Indonesia and Malaysia are not very different in this regard. Less than a third admitted to routinely praying five times a day, as most said they pray routinely. Only around 60% said that they always fast in the holy month of Ramadan. More than three quarters of the respondents in both countries even admitted that they understood rather little of the verses in the al-Qur'an. Over 60% admitted that they only read the al-Qur'an periodically. This fact is rather surprising, as nearly 90% of the participants say that they come from religious homes. Women are more likely to carry out their religious obligations compared with men in Indonesia and Malaysia. This circumstance exists because women in Muslim societies are directed and obliged to be moral pillars in family life as well as in society. Women are constantly controlled to carry out religious precepts.



When it comes to polygamy, the majority of Muslim youths in Malaysia and Indonesia disagree with the act. In this regard, more women than men disagree with polygamy. More Indonesian youth disagree with polygamy (86.5%) compared with their Malaysian counterparts (72.7%). This data is heartening for moderates, as their views have shifted from the traditional viewpoint that sees polygamy as an Islamic precept.

It is important to note that the implementation of Shariah law in Islamic countries varies widely, including its interpretation of polygamy. Family laws in Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the Sudan unreservedly allow polygamy. However, Islamic countries such as Egypt and Jordan tightly regulate polygamy. There, polygamy can only be carried out with a written permit from the court, after the man has obtained an oral and written agreement from his wife beforehand. Even then, permission would be granted only if the husband's livelihood is deemed sufficient to support two households. On the other hand, Muslim countries such as Turkey, Tunisia and Morocco implicitly prohibit polygamy and sentence polygamists with a prison term and a hefty fine.

Polygamy is a legal practice in Malaysia and Indonesia, but in Indonesia the overall public opinion towards it is highly negative, a notion reflected in the findings of this study. In contrast to their views on polygamy, nearly all Muslim youth in Indonesia and Malaysia hold traditional views on interfaith marriage. The majority of them disagree with interfaith marriage. Even if they are willing to marry a spouse of a different faith, they wish for them to convert to Islam. In this regard, it should be noted that the view of Islamic scholars on interfaith marriage is split into three different schools of thought with conflicting views. The first absolutely disagrees with interfaith marriage (as it is haram or taboo in Islamic law); the second agrees with a Muslim man marrying a non-Muslim woman, but not vice versa. This school of thought's reasoning is that women are weak and therefore liable to convert to their husband's religion. This system of thought is the view adopted by the majority of Muslims. Therefore, it is surprising that interfaith marriage is practised so widely throughout the Islamic world. The third school of thought agrees with interfaith marriage for both men and women. Their grounds are that if Muslim men can marry non-Muslim women it can be done vice versa, as men and women are equal humans created by God.

The use of the headscarf has become a lot more widespread in recent years, especially in Malaysia, where the dressing habits of Muslim women have changed profoundly. Most photos of Malaysian women between the 1950s and 1970s from all classes of society and geographic locales rarely show them wearing the headscarf, unlike today. In a number of instances, there is a picture of a headdress, but they do not exactly meet the criteria set by conservative religious thinkers today. Only recently did girls in elementary schools start wearing the headscarf.

The wearing of the headscarf in Indonesia and Malaysia first became popular in the 1980s, a development some experts believe was an impact from the Iranian Revolution in 1979. However, the wearing of the headscarf over the past two and a half decades has become increasingly widespread. In Indonesia, the wearing of the headscarf particularly increased following the Reformation era.

The spread of Islamic parties and transnational organisations was also a significant influence. The headscarf has become the symbol of a woman's Islamic identity. Even so, there are still many Muslim women in Indonesia and Malaysia who hold prominent positions but do not wear the headscarf. The same thing is true for many wives of senior officials and powerful businessmen.

It is interesting to note that although many Malaysian Muslim youths do not constantly carry out other obligations of their religion such as praying five times a day or reading the al-Qur'an, nearly 70% of them urge for the headscarf to be made compulsory for women. More men than women urge for this. Surprisingly, Malaysian respondents with a secondary school education are more liberal over the headscarf issue than university graduates or those with a diploma. 66.9% of secondary school graduates call for the headscarf to be compulsory compared with 81.3% of those with a university degree or 73% with a diploma – an interesting fact that may point, however, more to stronger peer group pressure and increased institutional control than to a proportional relation between education and religious regulations.

Malaysian Muslim youths are very clear in their preference for Shariah and Hudud law, despite their laxity in carrying out their religious obligations. Over 70% would rather follow Shariah law than the Federal Constitution. However, only 50% of Eastern Malaysian Muslim youth would condone such a choice. More men than women wish for Shariah law to be implemented – perhaps because it favours men.

A surprising finding is that the majority of Muslim youths in Malaysia and Indonesia agree to the imposition of Hudud punishments, which call for the cutting off of hands for thieves, death sentences for murderers and whipping for anyone caught drinking alcohol.

These are the data in more detail: 71% of Malaysians and 50% of Indonesians urge the punishment of cutting off the hand of anyone found guilty as a thief; 92% of Malaysians and 68% of Indonesians support the punishment of whipping of alcohol offenders, while 92.5% of Malaysians and 66% of Indonesians agree on the death penalty for murderers. It is interesting to note that more women than men support the call to cut off a thief's hand. The older respondents are more vocal in calling for Hudud law and they are also more likely to call for alcohol drinkers to be whipped.

The rather conservative outlook of Muslim youth in Indonesia and Malaysia on religion and social life does not appear to be conducive to building modern democratic, pluralist and humanistic societies. Religious conservatism can be potentially incompatible with democratic principles, such as the freedom of opinion, freedom of speech, freedom of worship and freedom from discrimination.

Indonesia's history created a specific relationship between religious and state or public values that is different from the one in Malaysia. Although the majority of Indonesians are Muslim, the nation's founders acknowledged Pancasila as their ideological basis.

Pancasila (Sanskrit for ‘five principles’) became the major force behind national, public and private life. This political philosophy has no precepts that are incompatible with Islamic teachings. The principles of Pancasila strongly reflect moral and religious messages, which are known in Islam under the term maqashid al-syari’ah or the common good. The nation’s founders clearly refused to ground their nation on religion. Religion was only used as an ethical basis, not as an ideological one.

In Malaysia, however, it appears that during the last few decades the idea of an “Islamic state” has gained much ground. This was not always so. Whilst the first and third prime ministers (Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra and Tun Hussein Onn) openly declared that Malaysia was a secular state with Islam as the official religion – the fourth prime minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, declared that Malaysia was an Islamic state.

The difference between “official religion” and “state religion” is further complicated by the fact that Malaysia is a federation of states in which Islam may or may not be the state religion. For example, Sabah’s condition for entering the “Malaysia Agreement” was that there would be no state religion. Therefore, perceptions of religious laws are bound to differ from state to state.

Social Environment, Lifestyle And Values

The Lifest Yle Of Young Muslims In Indonesia And Malaysia Is Not Much Different From Those Of Young People Elsewhere.

In general, the sociological realities in the lifestyles of young Muslims in Indonesia and Malaysia are not very different from those of young people elsewhere, including those in the western world. The sight of young people filling cafés, shopping malls, salons and boutiques on the weekends, holidays and evenings is very common in both countries.

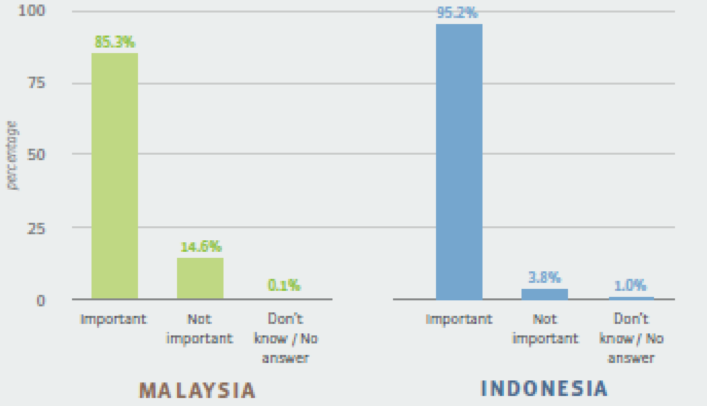
The five activities that are most liked by young Malaysian people in their leisure time are watching TV (75%), listening to music (61.7%), surfing the Internet (52.3%), reading magazines or newspapers (47%), taking a walk (39.9%), activities with family members (36.1%), and exercising (32.3%). On the other hand, only 14.5% of young Malaysians and 26.2% of their Indonesian counterparts go to the mosque in their spare time. The respondents include those who graduated from religious schools.

It seems that technology is very important for young Indonesians and Malaysians of various ages and educational levels. Cellular phones, computers and other gadgets are their constant companions at work and in their leisure time because they enable them to keep in touch with their friends and entertain them with music and games. Watching television, listening to music and surfing the Internet are common ways to spend their leisure time.

For the respondents, reading books in their spare time is apparently not very popular they are more inclined to read magazines and newspapers. Most university graduates watch television in their spare time, though the percentage that do so is lower compared with respondents with a lower educational level. However, this still shows the popular appeal of television compared with other activities.

FIGURE 9

Do you think that technology is important for the young people nowadays?



Technology widens young people's general knowledge and it comes with style and design that raises young people's wish to own luxury items. Outfits, shoes and accessories designed by famous designers are sought after, as they are status symbols: 60% of Malaysian Muslim youth say that owning designer clothes is important to them.

The majority of young people in both countries says that their financial situation is sound and that they did not experience or participate in violent incidents in their recent past. However, as with young people elsewhere, they still face problems, frustrations and stress. The three leading causes of stress for both Malaysian and Indonesian youth are lack of money, problems in school and at work.

Controlling emotions, especially stress, has taken a mental and physical toll. Confiding to friends is the respondent's favourite way to ease stress. Others choose to just let it go away by itself – interestingly, more Malaysian youths choose this manner of coping (20.9 % to 12.7 %). A smaller number of participants, most of whom are women, choose to confide in their family to deal with their stress.

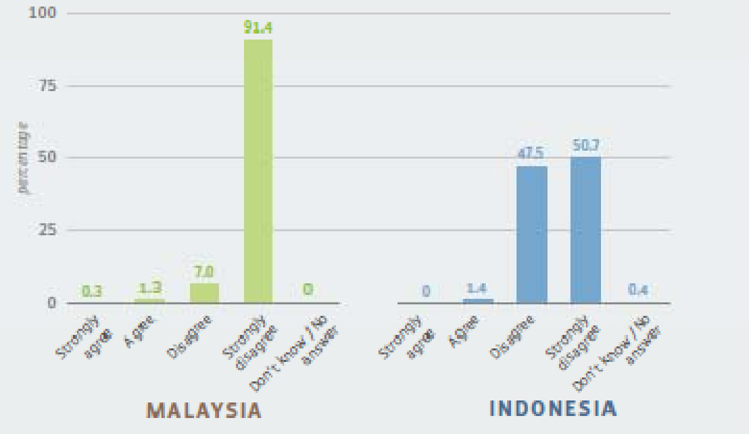
When it comes to values, the respondents generally admitted that belief in God is the most important thing in their lives. Older respondents view piety and carrying out religious obligations as main values, whereas younger respondents view hard work, creativity, and ambition as important values.

When the respondents were asked about sensitive issues such as premarital sex or homosexuality, most of them show a mainstream approach: no pre-marital sex, no gays and lesbians, no bikinis or tank tops.

Similarly, almost all participants reject interfaith marriage and wish for their partners to convert to Islam. The respondents showed interest, knowledge and practical care in a number of global humanitarian issues such as HIV/AIDS, the vanishing of traditional values and cultures, layoffs, and the prospect of losing their jobs without having another source of employment. There is no significant difference between Indonesian and Malaysian respondents in addressing these issues.

FIGURE 10

It is okay to have pre-marital sex



Most of the respondents from both Malaysia and Indonesia express their willingness to be involved in various social activities. Nearly all are interested and want to participate in various activities that are held to protect the environment and animals, improve the lives of the handicapped, help poor and neglected elderly people, as well as conserve culture and tradition. When it comes to social activities, most of them prefer to hold group activities, whether in the office, at school or at university.

POLITICS

Young People In Indonesia And Malaysia Are Not Pa Rticularly Intereste D In Politics.

Young people in Indonesia and Malaysia are not particularly interested in politics. While 23% of Indonesian youth admit to some interest in politics, and 27% of them state that they participate in regional elections, hardly any Malaysian Muslim youths (0.8%) would want to become politicians, this profession would in fact be the least of their ambitions and dreams in their lives. Especially Malaysian university students have all the reason for such strong feelings: A 1971 law for universities and institutes of tertiary education prohibits students from participating in politics. The students are instead encouraged to join the National Union of Malaysian Muslim Students (Persatuan Nasional Mahasiswa Muslim Malaysia), which holds motivational courses and tutoring for students, and the Peninsular Malaysia for Malay Students Federation (Federasi Malaysia Semenanjung bagi Mahasiswa Melayu), which helps Malay students succeed in their studies on an individual level. The government's dislike of student participation in politics has resulted in students losing interest in politics..

This general distance from politics in Malaysia is accompanied by some apathy towards elections. About 66.3% of those eligible to vote have never registered to vote, another 20% have never voted, while only 11.6% participated in every election. Women are more likely to exercise their right to vote when compared with men.

Although there is not so much general interest in politics, young people in Indonesia and Malaysia are aware of the importance of politics and democracy. Most of them state that the people should have the power to change a government that is not to their liking and that opposition parties are essential to a good democracy. They state that good leadership has nothing to do with gender issues, as good women leaders fully deserve support. More women are highly aware of the need to exercise their right to vote, though they have less knowledge about politics and democracy. Awareness of the importance of politics and democracy is highest among older and well-educated respondents.

FIGURE 11

Conclusion

Muslim youths in Indonesia and Malaysia are similar to their counterparts in other countries. They are content, satisfied and optimistic about their lives and their respective countries' futures. Though their social and religious views are still conservative and even fatalistic in some aspects, they have a positive self-image. All in all, they are energetic, creative, hardworking and ambitious, and see the importance of getting a quality education.

When it comes to their lifestyle, these young people rely on technology to communicate and to fill their spare time. They make extensive use of the new media (internet and sms), and they are also inclined to study technical subjects in universities. For entertainment they listen to music (modern and religious) and watch TV and Western movies. They do strive hard to improve their personal well-being and in their effort to seek jobs with good income. Technology has undoubtedly become most influential in the secularization of the young Muslim community and it is dominated by its rational-scientific principles with no intrinsic metaphysical values. Such a technological advancement has provided the Muslim youths with a huge amount of knowledge and information that the parents and grandparents do not possess.

In some aspects this gives the reciprocal impression that overwhelming secular experience and existence has made these Muslim youths technologically savvy. However, they are not becoming de-islamised. They may be superficial in their practice of and knowledge about Islam but they nevertheless perceive themselves as religious even though their overall religious outlook and practice may show more personal orientation.

Most youngsters do not choose to be involved in collective religious or political activities, but they overwhelmingly (92%) express their willingness to engage in some form of social work that relates to environment and animal protection, to helping the disabled, the poor and the aged. They state concern for humanitarian global issues such as HIV/AIDS, international conflicts, natural disasters, as well as the preservation of traditions and local cultures. They prefer to join collective social engagement at the place they study, and working together with peers is high on their list.

In terms of ethics and ethos, the young ones put hard work, ambition and creativity at the top of their list, as opposed to emphasizing religious activities and duties, which they believe were on top of their parent's list and yet they strongly believe in God. It is not surprising therefore that success and failure in life, in their view, is determined by fate. However, they are prepared to learn something new, to have fun in life and push their will through to achieve their ambition.

As for family orientation, the respondents are strongly devoted to traditional values. They dream about the happiness of raising a family and having children - more than two if possible. Marriage is viewed as a yardstick of happiness. If their spouses-to-be are non-Muslim they want them to convert to Islam. They are divided whether to raise their children with a stronger religious component or to let the children grow up like they did. All in all, they want to be a good parent.

They describe the relationship with their own parents as good, though they may not set aside too much spare time to spend with their families. They also do not confide in their parents in times of stress. The respondents do not view the way they were raised and taught by their parents as ideal, so they want to find their own different way of raising and educating their children in the future.

With regards to the strong religious component of family life to which the majority of youths refer it comes as a surprise that not all of them always carry out their religious obligations as they are meant to: they do not always pray five times a day, fast during the holy month of Ramadan, or recite the al-Qur'an regularly. They admit to only having a little understanding of the verses of the al-Qur'an and they certainly do not head to the mosque in their spare time, but prefer to watch TV, listen to music, or surf the Internet.

One could say that extremist attitudes and fundamentalist behaviour is distinctly alien to their religious practice. Nearly half of them (42.4%) grew up socialized by very religious parents but they turned out to become moderate themselves.

Remarkably, more than 60% have not seen or experienced violence in the last 12 months. They heard about the rules for wearing headscarves, Hudud laws, cutting off hands of thieves and caning for Muslims drinking alcohol but none of them mentioned any Quranic verses that would support these rules.

Lastly, in the matter of politics, the respondents are mostly disinterested and avoid any involvement as voters. But this does not mean that they are ignorant of politics and democracy, because they like to learn about political issues, for example, in civic education classes at school and they conduct a moderate participation and involvement in social organizations. They are aware that people have a right to overthrow incompetent rulers.

Unlike their Malaysian counterparts, most young Indonesian Muslims tend to distrust the government and disagree when asked whether religious leaders should play an active role in politics. Overall, the political position adopted by the respondents is a consistent one. They may not be very interested in politics but appreciate good leadership in their country. Of course, they are very aware of what is happening socio-politically and in economic terms. Indeed, they expressed appreciation and satisfaction with regards to the economic growth, political stability, good infrastructures, and satisfactory governance, a list that was topped by 82.4% of the Malaysian respondents in their high satisfaction with the peaceful situation in their own country.

All Muslim youths in Indonesia and Malaysia express a strong pro-Muslim worldview when it comes to international politics.

According to them even President Obama of the USA cannot resolve the Muslim problems in the world, such as the Palestinian issue which is very high on their list of concerns. They see

the positive side of globalisation as a phenomenon in support of peace and economic prosperity, but they also see the negative impact of globalisation in its destruction of the environment.
Sources:http://merdeka.org/v2/index.php?option=com_jotloader&section=files&task=download&cid=86_84eff588f8135af4bfed15ec9dedb192&Itemid=68

NORTH EAST ASIA

180-43-3. LDP More Unpopular After Earthquake

Asahi Shimbun April 2011 Regular Public Opinion Poll

Dates Conducted

April 16 and 17, 2011

Released April 18, 2011 (Morning edition of the Asahi Shimbun)

Methodology

The poll was conducted by telephone on April 16 and 17 with voters from across Japan (except Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, which were affected by the March 11 Tohoku earthquake), whose telephone numbers were selected by a computer at random. Subjects were selected using a three-stage random sampling method (the Asahi RDD). The total number of those polled was 3,352, with 1,999 responses and a 60% response rate. Decimals were rounded up. The questions with ◆ marks are questions for everyone. The questions with ◇ are branching questions, and the numbers with them are the ratio to the participants who answered the questions. The numbers in 〈 〉 are the ratio to the whole. Unless otherwise noted, the numbers in ( ) are the results from a poll conducted on February 19 and 20, 2011.

Key Issues

- Support for the Kan cabinet
- Evaluation of Kan cabinet’s response to the March 11 Tohoku earthquake
- Future policy for nuclear power plants

Disclaimer

The Mansfield Foundation is responsible for the translation of this Asahi Shimbun poll, subject to the Mansfield Foundation Terms of Use

Q1. Do you support or not support the Kan cabinet? ◆

Support	21% (20)
Do not support	60% (62)

Q2. Why? The left column is out of the 21% who support the Kan cabinet, while the right column is out of the 60% who do not support. ◇

Because the Prime Minister is Mr. Kan	21% 〈4〉	5% 〈3〉
Because the administration is centered around the DPJ	35% 〈7〉	8% 〈5〉
Because of the polices	14% 〈3〉	20% 〈12〉

Because of the ability to get things done	10% 〈2〉	65% 〈38〉

Q3. Which political party do you currently support? ◆

Democratic Party of Japan	17% (19)
Liberal Democratic Party	19% (18)
New Komeito	3% (3)
Japan Communist Party	2% (2)
Social Democratic Party	1% (1)
Your Party	1% (2)
The People's New Party	0% (0)
The Sunrise Party of Japan	0% (0)
The New Party Nippon	0% (0)
New Renaissance Party	0% (0)
Other party	0% (0)
Do not support any party	49% (50)
No answer/Do not know	8% (5)

Q4. If the general election were being held today, which party do you think you would vote for in the proportional representation section? ◆

Democratic Party of Japan	18% (19)
Liberal Democratic Party	30% (25)
New Komeito	4% (5)
Japan Communist Party	3% (3)
Social Democratic Party	1% (1)
Your Party	5% (6)
The People's New Party	0% (0)
The Sunrise Party of Japan	0%(0)
The New Party Nippon	0% (0)
New Renaissance Party	0% (0)
Other party	1% (1)

No answer/Do not know	38% (40)

Q5. Do you want Mr. Kan to continue to be the Prime Minister? Or want him to resign? ◆

Want him to continue to be the Prime Minister	36% (30)
Want him to resign	43% (49)

Q6. Do you appreciate the response of the Kan cabinet to the March 11 Tohoku earthquake? ◆

Yes	22%
No	60%

Q7. Do you appreciate the response of the Kan cabinet to the accident of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant? ◆

Yes	16%
No	67%

Q8. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that DPJ and LDP form a grand coalition regime? ◆

Agree	43%
Disagree	37%

Q9. Do you agree or disagree with the idea of increasing taxes to fund earthquake disaster reconstruction? ◆

Agree	59%
Disagree	31%

Q10. Which do you think would be a better source for the bulk of earthquake disaster reconstruction funding: tax increases or government bonds? ◆

Tax increases	48%
Government bonds	25%

Q11. We will ask you about the accident in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. To what extent do you feel anxiety about the accident? (Please choose one) ◆

High anxiety	56%

Some anxiety	33%
Not much anxiety	9%
No anxiety	2%

Q12. To what extent do you feel anxiety about the similar catastrophic accident at other nuclear power plants? (Please choose one)

High anxiety	50%
Some anxiety	38%
Not much anxiety	10%
No anxiety	1%

Q13. Do you think the government's dissemination of information about the accident in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was appropriate? ◆

Appropriate	16%
Not appropriate	73%

Q14. Do you agree or not agree with utilizing nuclear power generation? ◆

Agree	50%
Do not agree	32%

Q15. What should be the future of Japan's nuclear power generation? (Please choose one) ◆

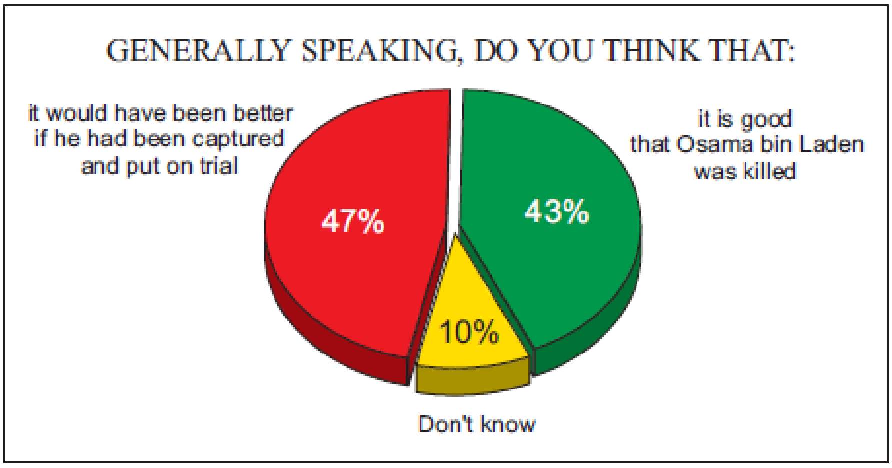
Nuclear power generation should be increased	5%
Nuclear power generation should continue as it is	51%
Nuclear power generation should be decreased	30%
Nuclear power generation should end	11%

Source: http://mansfieldfdn.org/polls/2011/poll-11-04.htm

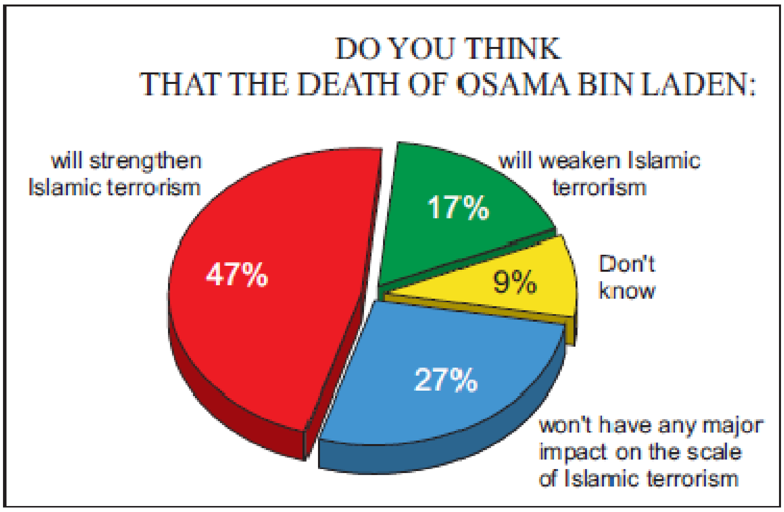
EAST EUROPE

180-43-4. Fear Of Terrorism After Osama Bin Laden's Death

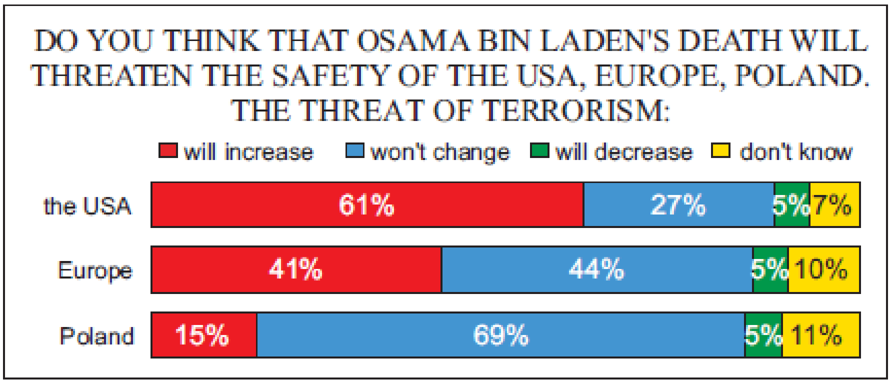
The news of Osama bin Laden's death has divided Polish society - the percentage of people who think that he should have been caught and then put on trial is slightly higher than the percentage of people who believe it is better that he was killed without trial.



Nearly half of respondents claim that because of bin Laden's death Islamic terrorism will grow in strength, whereas less than a fifth expect the contrary. More than a quarter, however, think that this event will not have any major impact on the scale of terrorism. The largest group of respondents think that the death of al-Qaeda's leader will threaten the safety of the US. Two fifths expect the threat to rise in Europe and only one in seven say that this death will put the safety of Poland at risk.



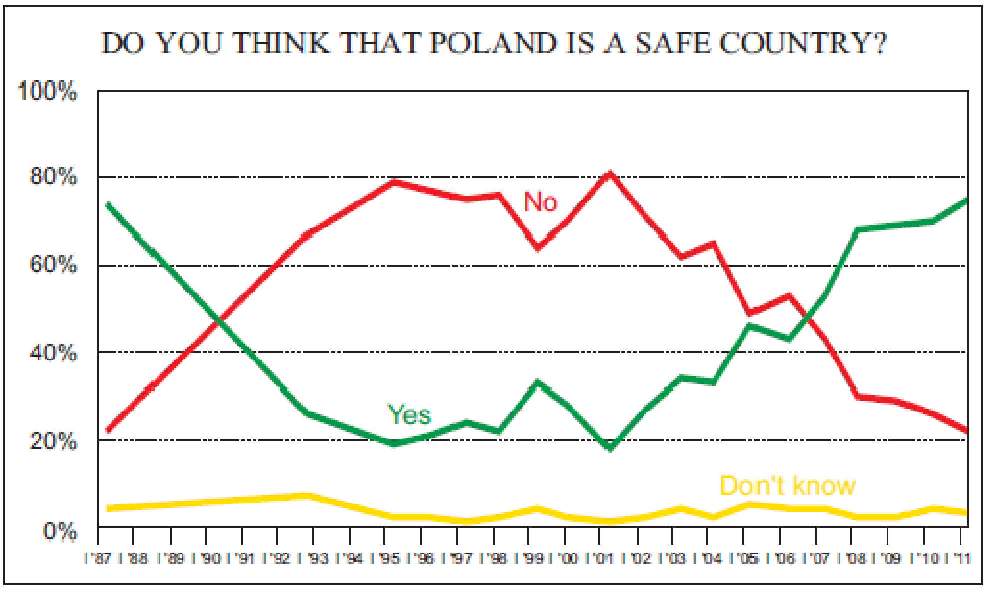
Slightly more than a third of respondents (35%) fear that terrorist attacks might threaten them personally. Presently, the fear of terrorism is higher by 10 points than last year. The previous survey was not preceded by any event that could potentially intensify the feeling of anxiety. Still, fears in this respect are far less frequent than after the Madrid train bombings in March 2004 (a 26-29 point fall) or the London bombings and Sharm el-Sheik attacks in July 2005 (a 21 point fall). The fear of terrorism is now slightly smaller than between November 2001 and June 2002 - immediately after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon (3-4 points less).



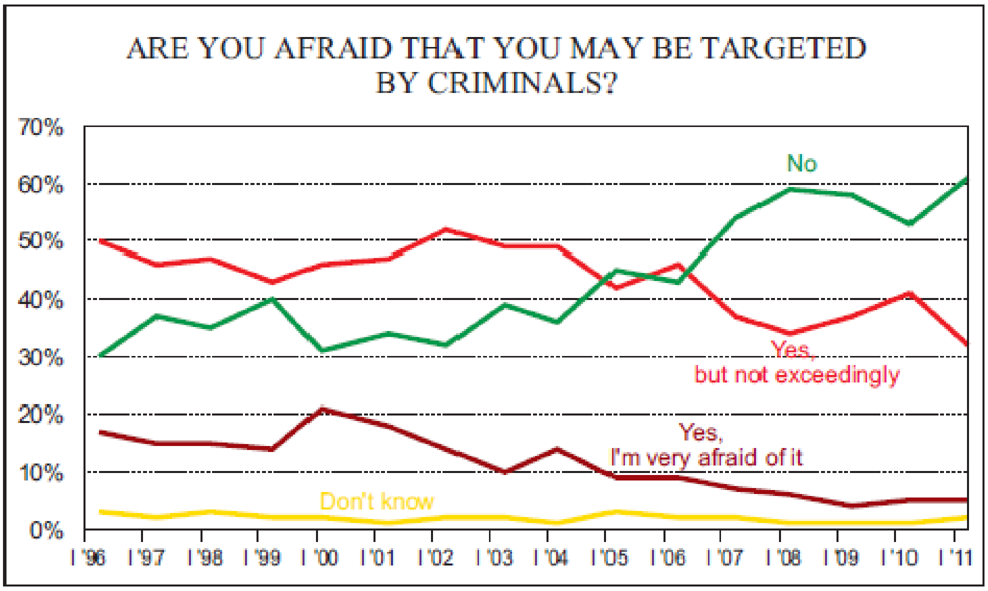
Source: http://www.cbos.pl/PL/publikacje/public_opinion/2011/05_2011.pdf

180-43-5. Sense Of Security And Attitude To Death Penalty

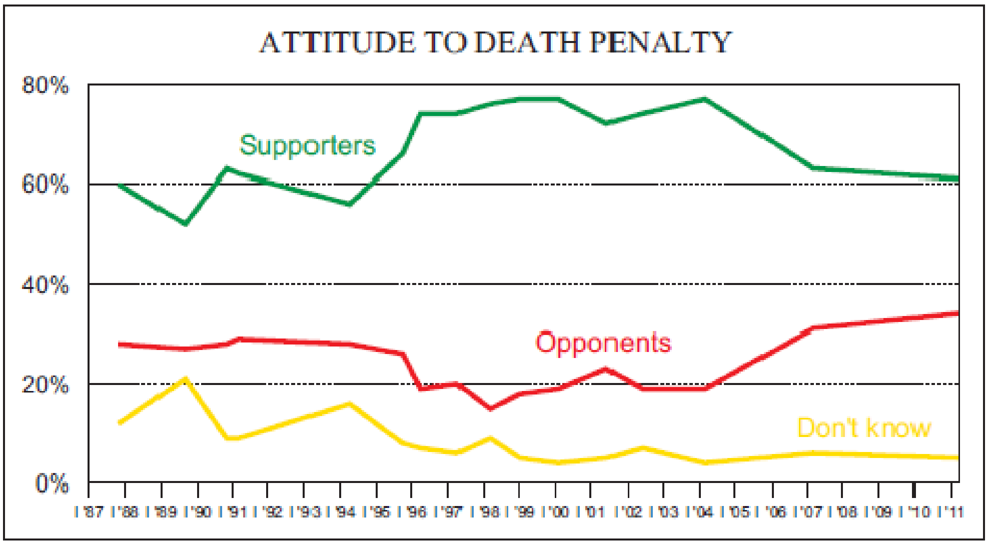
Police statistics show that crime level has fallen in recent years - particularly its most recognizable and feared form: criminal offences. This is reflected in society's opinions. Three quarters (75%) of adult Poles consider Poland to be a safe country and only a fifth (22%) think the opposite. Opinions in this respect have improved in comparison to the previous survey, and are presently at their best since political transformation in Poland. They can be compared to attitudes from the final years of People's Republic.



People have always felt that safety in their place of living higher than overall. One of the reasons explaining this tendency is the fact that respondents depend more on their own experience and less on the image presented in the media. The vast majority of the questioned people (88%) claim their neighbourhood is safe, whereas one in nine (11%) say the opposite. In the last four years the percentage of people who feel safe in the place they live has remained stable.



The number of people who feel personally threatened by crime has fallen in comparison to past years. Presently, the majority of adults (61%) are not afraid they may be targeted by criminals, and over a third of respondents (37%) say they worry about it. However, moderate expressions of fear definitely prevail.



The death penalty in Poland has not been executed for 23 years and since September 1998 it is legally impossible to sentence it because of changes in the law which does not allow such a penalty. Yet in public discussions we may occasionally hear suggestions to bring it back. Moreover, the declarations of respondents seem to show that it has public support. The majority of Poles (61%) declare that they support the idea to punish the most serious crimes with capital punishment. A third of the surveyed people are against it (34%) In comparison to the previous research carried out in 2007, opinions about this issue have practically remained the same.

Source: http://www.cbos.pl/PL/publikacje/public_opinion/2011/05_2011.pdf

180-43-6. How Many Potential Emigrants Are There In Russia?

80% of Russians would like to go abroad as tourists. Twenty-one percent of Russians would like to go abroad for permanent residence.

MOSCOW, June 10, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data describing why Russians would like to go abroad; and how many Russians would like to live there permanently.

Touristic trip is the main reason why Russians would like to go abroad (80%, in 1991 - 48%). The share of those who want to go abroad to get permanent residence has considerably increased (from 5 to 21%), to work (from 13 to 20%), to study (from 5 to 13%). At the same time, the share of those who go abroad to see relatives has slightly decreased (from 18 to 13%).

Going abroad for permanent residence or employment is often mentioned by respondents aged 18-24 (30 and 28% respectively). Those who would like to leave Russia for permanent residence are basically active Internet users (25%) or respondents with low level of income (27%). Within this group the number of those who are willing to go abroad to study (32%), or on a business trip (14%) is high. Elderly respondents tend to go abroad to see relatives (22%).

The share of those who would like to emigrate abroad has increased compared to 1991: those who are directly asked about their intention to live permanently abroad, 22% give positive answer 22% (earlier - 16%). The largest migration potential is expressed by respondents aged 18-24 show (39%), with high level of education (29%), and active internet users (33%). **The majority of Russians do not want to leave Russia (75%)** - they are basically elderly respondents (93%), those with low level of education (85%), as well as those who do not use Internet (87%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on June 4-5, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Would you like to go abroad? If yes, for what purpose?
(close-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who would like to go abroad)

	1991	2011
Touristic trip	**49**	**80**
To see relatives	**18**	**13**
Business trip	**10**	**9**
Study, internship	**5**	**13**
Work	**13**	**20**
Permanent residence	**5**	**21**
Other	**8**	**2**
Hard to tell	**<1**	**1**

Would you like to go abroad? If yes, for what purpose?
(close-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who would like to go abroad)

	Total respondents	Do you use Internet? How often??		
		Almost every day, several times per week	Several times per month, from time to time	I do not use it
Touristic trip	**80**	80	78	80
To see relatives	**13**	13	10	15
Business trip	**9**	14	5	3
Study, internship	**13**	20	6	5
Work	**20**	24	22	12
Permanent residence	**21**	25	21	14
Other	**2**	2	1	2
Hard to tell	**1**	1	1	1

Would you like to go abroad? If yes, for what purpose?
(close-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who would like to go abroad)

	Total respondents	Financial self-assessment		
		Very good, good	Average	Bad, very bad
Touristic trip	**80**	83	80	77
To see relatives	**13**	15	13	13
Business trip	**9**	12	10	6
Study, internship	**13**	15	13	12
Work	**20**	24	19	20
Permanent residence	**21**	17	20	27
Other	**2**	1	1	2
Hard to tell	**1**	0	1	1

Would you like to go abroad to get permanent residence or not?
(close-ended question, one answer)

	1991	2011
Rather yes	**16**	**22**
Rather no	**70**	**75**
Hard to tell	**14**	**3**

Would you like to go abroad to get permanent residence or not? *(close-ended question, one answer)*						
	Total respondents	**Aged 18-24**	**Aged 25-34**	**Aged 35-44**	**Aged 45-59**	**Aged 60and above**
Rather yes	**22**	39	28	22	20	4
Rather no	**75**	57	67	73	78	93
Hard to tell	**3**	4	5	4	2	2

Would you like to go abroad to get permanent residence or not? *(close-ended question, one answer)*				
	Total respondents	**Almost every day, several times per week**	**Several times per month, from time to time**	**I do not use it**
Rather yes	**22**	33	25	11
Rather no	**75**	63	72	87
Hard to tell	**3**	4	3	3

Would you like to go abroad to get permanent residence or not? *(close-ended question, one answer)*				
	Total respodnents	**Financial self-assessment**		
		Very good, good	**Average**	**Bad, very bad**
Rather yes	**22**	26	22	19
Rather no	**75**	71	75	78
Hard to tell	**3**	3	3	3

***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/111681.html

180-43-7. 1991 Presidential Elections: View Of Russians 20 Years Later

Today the majority of Russians who cast their vote for Boris Yeltsin in 1991 recognize that they would not have done that if they knew the results of his policies.

MOSCOW, June 9, 2011. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data about how many Russians supported Boris Yeltsin in the 1991 elections, what they would have done if they knew the outcome of his policies; as well as how the history of the country, in the Russian electorate`s view, would be shaped if Yeltsin did not win the 1991 election.

Remembering the presidential elections of 1991, **most of Russians report they voted for Yeltsin (29% versus 12% who voted against him).** Over the recent 15 years the share of those who supported Yeltsin has dramatically decreased (in 1996 - 49%). The remainder of respondents could not take part in elections due to age restrictions (36%), or refused to take part in the voting (12%).

Those who actively supported Yeltsin in 1991 were adherents of the Fair Russia party (43%), Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (39%), and 45-59-year-old respondents (49%). Those who voted against him were mainly those persons who support communists (38%), residents of small cities (15%) and elderly Russians (31%).

Russians gave their vote in favor of Yeltsin because they believed in what he promised in his political program (60%). Many Russians voted for Yeltsin because there were no suitable candidates in 1991 (8%); others voted for Yelsin because the majority of Russians opted for him (6%).**Those who voted for other candidates did so either** not to increase the number of Yeltsin`s supporters (29%) or to traditionally support the communists (16%). **Those who did not take part in elections were those who were confident** that the results would be predetermined (6%) or those who could not take part due to objective reasons (22%).

Asked how they would have voted if they knew about the results of the Yeltsin`s policies, the majority of respondents who participated in the voting reported nothing would have changed in their electoral behavior (47%). As a rule, they are those who currently support non-parliament parties (64%), absentees (58%) and elderly respondents (50%). Every third recognizes he/she would have made another choice (33%). They are mainly respondents aged 45-59 (37%).

Russians voting for Yeltsin in 1991 report they would have acted differently if they knew the results of his policies in advance (46%). Those who either did not support this politician or did not participate in the voting say that if they knew about the results of his policies they would not have changed their mind (77% and 48% respectively).

Thinking over the current situation in Russia in case Yeltsin did not win in 1991, a relative majority of respondents suppose that our country would have lived better (37%). This stance is mainly shared by elderly Russians (45%), CPRF supporters (58%) and those who voted against Yeltsin in 1991 (67%). The share of those who think that things in Russia would have been even worse in case Yeltsin lost is much smaller (15%). Those are mainly supporters of non-parliament parties (25%), 35-44-year-old Russians (19%), and respondents who supported Yeltsin twenty years ago (31%). Almost one-quarter of Russians think that it did not have any impact on Russia`s history (23%). Most of those who think so are Fair Russia party adherents (30%) and those who did not participate in the election of 1991 (35%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on June 4-5, 2011. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 138 sampling points in 46 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Could you remember, you voted for or against Yeltsin, or you did not participate in the voting at all in the 1991 presidential elections? *(close-ended question, one answer)*

	1996	2011
For	**49**	**29**
Against	**16**	**12**
I did not participate in election	**15**	**12**

I did not take part because I did not turn 18	**8**	**36**
Hard to tell/I do not remember	**12**	**11**

What was the crucial factor for you in 1991 to choose the right candidate or to refuse to vote? *(open-ended question, any number of answers)*

	For Yeltsin	**Against Yeltsin**	**I did not take in election**
The results were predetermined without my participation	0	2	6
There were no suitable candidates	8	7	0
The majority voted for this candidate	6	1	0
I could not participate in the voting (due to health problems, absent from the city, et cet.)	0	0	22
I did not trust the politician after the fall of the USSR	1	1	0
He was an extraordinary person; he was not like others	1	0	0
I have always supported the communists	0	16	0
I believed in the political program of this candidate, his promises	60	19	0
There was an active campaign for this candidate	3	1	0
I did not trust Yeltsin		29	3
Other	2	4	2
Hard to tell	23	25	62

If you knew the outcome of the Yeltsin`s policies, would you have changed your decision to participate or not to participate in the voting, or to vote for a particular candidate or not?

(close-ended question, one answer, % of those who could take part in the election of 1991)

	Total respodnents	**Who voted for Yeltsin**	**Who voted against Yeltsin**	**Who did not participate in election**
Rather yes	**33**	46	14	24
Rather no	**47**	38	77	48
Hard to tell	**21**	16	9	27

Imagine, Yeltsin lost the election of 1991. In your opinion, would anything have changed in the history

(close-ended question, one answer, % of those who could participate in the election of 1991)

	Total respodnents	**Who voted for Yeltsin**	**Who voted against Yeltsin**	**pa el**
Now our country would have lived better	**37**	31	67	
Now our country would have lived even worse	**15**	22	5	
Nothing would have changed	**23**	22	15	
Hard to tell	**26**	25	13	

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

Source: http://wciom.com/news/press-releases/press-release/single/111680.html

WEST EUROPE

180-43-8. Concern about Britain's ageing population - including social care and pensions - increases this month, although still far behind other domestic issues

Published:15 July 2011

Fieldwork:1-7 July 2011

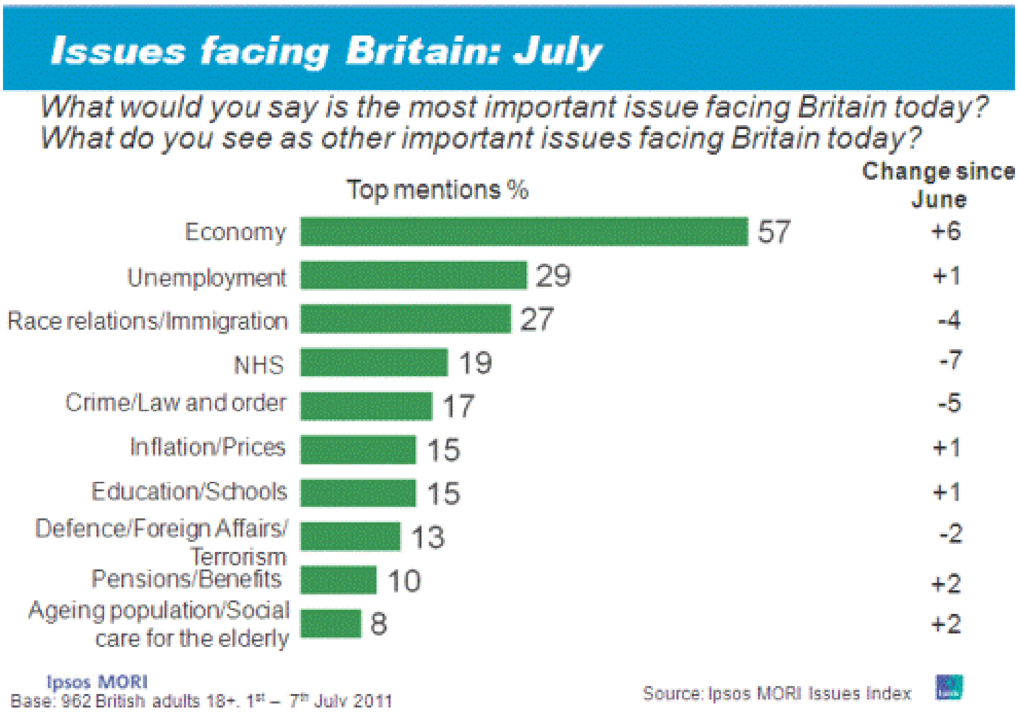
Economist/Ipsos MORI Issues Index July 2011

Concern about the NHS falls, following higher levels of concern in May and June

Fieldwork concluded shortly prior to the announcement of the closure of the News of the World, before the scandal may have begun to strongly register with the public

The July Economist/Ipsos MORI Issues Index shows that concern about Britain's ageing population is gradually increasing among the public. Concern about our ageing society/ social care has more than doubled in the last two months, with one in twelve people now saying that it is among the most important issues facing Britain (8%). Fieldwork took place during coverage of the Dilnot Review on the future of social care.

Concern about pensions has also increased in recent months. One in ten thinks that 'pensions/ social security/ benefits' is important (10%), the highest concern about welfare we have recorded in 2011 so far. After the Comprehensive Spending Review last year concern reached similar levels, but prior to that the last time we recorded this level of concern was 2006.



The economy, however, remains at the top of the public's list of priorities; over half of the public (57%) say it is among the most important issues facing Britain, an increase from June (51%).

Concern about unemployment also remains high, though fieldwork was conducted prior to therelease of figures on Tuesday showing a fall of 26,000 in the number out of work. Three in ten (29%) are concerned about this issue.

A similar percentage (27%) is concerned about race relations/immigration and around a fifth (19%) are concerned about the NHS, a fall of seven percentage points since last month when NHS reforms were dominating headlines.

The vast majority of interviews were completed before the closure of News of the World was announced, when concern about the impact of the scandal had not yet registered among the public.

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 962 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 1st-7thJuly 2011 at 156 sampling points across Great Britain. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

Source: http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2826/EconomistIpsos-MORI-Issues-Index-July-2011.aspx

180-43-9. Majority of Public Support EU's Ban on Seal Products

Published:15 July 2011

Fieldwork: April - May 2011

More than seven in ten adults (72%) across the 11 European countries surveyed say they support the EU's ban on the sale of seal products in Europe according to new research carried out by Ipsos MORI for Humane Society International (HSI), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Eurogroup for Animals, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), Global Action in the Interest of Animals (GAIA), Lega Anti Vivisezione (LAV), Bont voor Dieren, and Fondation Franz Weber.

The overall ratio of support to opposition across the 11 countries is over 5:1. While the results vary from country to country, they clearly show that the majority of the general public in these European countries supports the EU ban.

At least four in five people in Germany (88%), Belgium (84%) and France (81%) say they support the ban. Around three in four people in Lithuania (75%), Great Britain, Poland and Sweden (each 73%) are in support of the EU's ban. In the Netherlands (66%), Spain (62%) and Romania (61%), more than three in five support the ban. Support is lowest in Italy, where just over half support the ban (52%), while one in three oppose it (33%).

The ratio of support to opposition is the highest in Northern Europe — Germany (18:1) and Belgium (14:1), followed by France (9:1) and then Sweden (8:1).

Just over three quarters (78%) of adults across the 11 countries say either that they know not very much or nothing about commercial seal hunting including a quarter (25%) who say they have never heard of it. Around one in five (21%) say they know at least a fair amount about the issue – including just 3 per cent who believe they know a great deal.

Technical details

A minimum of 500 interviews were conducted in each country (a total of 6,102 across the 11 countries), either face-to-face or by telephone (omnibus surveys), in April/May 2011. In each case, the samples were designed to be nationally representative of the full adult population within the respective age ranges.

The survey was conducted across eleven countries as follows: Belgium (502 adults aged 15+, face-to-face, 12th and 23rd May 2011); France (517 adults aged 15+, telephone, 29th April and 2nd May 2011); Germany (524 adults aged 14+, telephone, 21st and 27th April 2011); Great Britain (1,004 adults aged 18+, telephone, 21st and 25th April 2011); Italy (518 adults aged 15+, face-to-face, 27th April and 3rd May 2011); Lithuania (500 adults aged 15+, telephone, 4th and 13th May 2011); Netherlands (502 adults aged 15+, telephone, 26th April and 16th May 2011); Poland (501 adults aged 15+, face-to-face, 6th and 9th May 2011); Romania (1,040 adults aged 15+, face-to-face, 6th and 12th May 2011); Spain (516 adults aged 15+, face-to-face, 3rd and 15th May 2011); Sweden (500 adults aged 15+, telephone between 3rd and 8th May 2011).

The half of the GB sample that was given the long introduction (as in other countries) is included in the 11 country total, while the other half is not.

National results are weighted to the known adult population profile of each country by age, sex, work status (active or inactive) and region. The overall results for all 11 countries are also weighted in proportion to the adult population size. It is possible to apply weights at the second stage either to the size of the adult population in each country proportionate to the total sample size, as this survey has, or by country on a 'one country one vote' (combined 11 country average) basis.

Source:http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2824/Majority-of-Public-Support-EUs-Ban-on-Seal-Products.aspx

180-43-10. E-Communications Household Survey (Multi-country survey)

Since the full opening of EU electronic communications markets in 1998, the consumption of products and services by European households and individuals has evolved considerably. Driven by technological progress and competition, fixed and wireless operators and service providers have invested in new and innovative digital network infrastructures, which have changed the way Europeans access and use public electronic communications networks.

In this context, the European Commission's Directorate General for the Information Society and Media regularly carries out opinion surveys to keep abreast of trends in electronic communications markets and to assess how EU households and citizens derive benefits from the increasingly competitive and innovative digital environment.

The fieldwork for this survey was carried out between 9 February and 8 March 2011. This survey is a follow up to several surveys carried out previously; in November/December 20091, November 2007 - January 20082, November/December 20063 and December 2005/January 20064.

This report includes the 27 Member States. The results are presented for the EU27 and when significant the EU15 and the NMS12 Member States. Comparisons have been made to the survey conducted in November/December 20095 and on occasion to November 2007 – January 20086. The data have been weighted on individuals over 15 years of age or EU households depending on the nature of the question. Indicators are presented at household level whereas opinion questions have been made representative of the individuals over 15 years of age. The socio-demographic analysis is at both an individual and household level. The socio-demographic analysis focuses primarily on household composition, subjective urbanisation, single households and the ageing society.

The main themes addressed in this report are:

The different types of telephone access available with the home
The availability of computers within the home
Internet access and the quality of that Internet connection
Television availability and the way in which the transmission is received
Uptake of communications packages
The ease of switching Internet service providers and/or package providers
Affordability of mobile services
Data privacy

The survey was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social network. The interviews were conducted among 26 836 EU citizens in the 27 Member States of the European Union. The methodology used is that of the Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate General for Communication (“Research and Speechwriting” Unit)7. A technical note on the manner in which the interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network is included as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals8.

SNAPSHOTS AND MAIN FINDINGS

Most EU households have access to a telephone (98%); more have access to a mobile phone (89%) than a fixed telephone (71%).

Overall, the distribution of the types of telephone access in the EU population has not changed significantly since winter 2009. A majority of households have both mobile and fixed telephone access (62%). A quarter (27%) have mobile only access and one in ten (9%) only have fixed telephone access.

Mobile telephone access is the most common, with almost nine out of ten EU households having access to at least one mobile (89%). Access to the public telephone network from a mobile phone is highest in the Czech Republic, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark and Finland where it is 96% in each country.

At an overall EU level, mobile telephone access did not increase significantly, however it did increase significantly within nine Member States whilst it only decreased significantly in two.

Seven out of ten households have access to a fixed line telephone. Overall there was no change in access to a fixed telephone, but within Member States access decreased significantly in ten countries and increased significantly in only three.

Sweden and Malta have the greatest incidence, with almost everyone having access (98% and 96% respectively). The lowest incidence is in the Czech Republic and Finland (17% and 20% respectively) where mobile phone access is relatively high and so is likely to be used instead.

There was no change at EU level in dual access (i.e. fixed and mobile), with a proportion of 62% household. The disparity between the EU15 and NMS12 countries remains, with the EU15 having greater dual access (68%) than the NMS12 (36%).

The proportion of EU households having only a mobile access has increased by 2 percentage points to 27%. As in winter 2009, the incidence is higher in the NMS12 countries where half of all households only have mobile access as compared to one in five EU15 households.

At a total EU level, contract and pre-paid systems are used equally and there appears to have been no change in their use since winter 2009. However, at a country level the use of contracts has increased significantly in eleven Member States (and decreased significantly in none) and the use of pre-paid systems has decreased significantly in ten States (and increased significantly in only two).

Calling over the Internet a PC or a Wifi-connected device is growing in popularity among the population which has an Internet access at home, with a six percentage points increase since winter 2009, to 28%. The previous disparity between EU15 and NMS12 is narrowing as the calling over the Internet increases in EU15 to 27% and remains unchanged in NMS12 at 36%.

Household access to a computer has continued to increase (+4) and almost seven out of ten households now have access (68%).

The country variation in household having a computer remains. In those countries with the highest incidence, around nine out of ten households have a computer (the Netherlands 95%, Sweden 91% and Denmark 88%) whereas in those with the lowest incidence the penetration is about half that with around five out of ten households having access (Bulgaria 47%, Romania 53% and Hungary 54%).

Household Internet access has also increased (+5) and 62% of households now have access at home.

Broadband continues to grow (+7), with more than half of all EU households now having a broadband connection (55%). Every country apart from Cyprus (+2) experienced a significant increase in broadband access, the greatest increase being observed in Latvia (+19).

Only one in twenty use narrowband to access the Internet. The incidence of narrowband is highest in Latvia (11%) and Germany (11%). The use of narrowband has not grown in any Member State but has declined significantly in eleven.

As before, most people are connecting using an ADSL, XDSL connection (62%). The second most popular mode is using the cable TV network (17%). Not surprisingly, comparatively few use a dial-up connection (8%) and while equally few connect using the mobile phone network (8%) this is the only mode to have seen significant growth since winter 2009 (+3).

Internet access from a mobile phone has increased at country level in 17 Member States and reaches levels above 50% in Sweden (59%), United Kingdom (52%) and Slovenia (51%).

The household' access to the Internet via the mobile network (using a dongle or USB key) has increased by 3 percentage points at EU level, and the highest levels can be observed in Finland (29%), Austria (20%) and Ireland (19%).

Almost two in five EU households still does not have an Internet access, the incidence being particularly high amongst those in Southern Europe, and also among the older fraction of the population. Most of those without access claim that it is because they are not interested in having the Internet at home (59%), the second most prevalent reason being related to cost (21%).

Household access to television is almost universal, with almost every household having access to one (98%).

There is very little variation in television access between Member States, with the highest incidence in Cyprus (100%) and Malta (100%) and the lowest in Finland (94%).

Digital terrestrial television (30%) and cable (35%) are the most popular means of receiving the TV transmission. Use of digital has continued to grow (+7) since winter 2009; please note that changes in the use of cable cannot be tracked this time as the question wording was changed. Using external aerials (23%) and dishes (21%) is secondary to digital and cable and the use of both has declined (-11 and -3 respectively).

The dominant means used for TV reception in each country is largely unchanged since winter 2009. Digital terrestrial TV is still most common in Spain, while cable analog is most common in Romania and digital cable is most common in Denmark and Luxembourg. The incidence of external aerials is still highest in Greece and the incidence of satellite is still among the highest in Austria and Ireland.

Service packages keep growing in popularity among EU households

The use of service packages continues to grow across the EU, with 42% of households now obtaining their communication services through a package.

Most packages include Internet access (90%) and a fixed telephone (82%). The inclusion of television channels is less popular (48%) and a mobile telephone in the package is the least common item (19%).

Most have not considered switching Internet provider (58%); those most likely to have considered switching are the Finnish (58%).

In addition, most have never considered switching bundle provider (60%). The highest incidences of those who have considered it were in Finland (54%), Italy (51%), Ireland (49%) and Austria (49%).

Finally…

Concern about the cost of mobile calls has increased (+4) and 65% are now limiting calls with their mobile because of concerns about charges. Greek and Spanish respondents are most concerned, with around eight out of ten respondents expressing concern.

Half of those with mobile Internet access limit their use of it because of concern about the cost. Concern is greatest in Belgium, Spain and Bulgaria where almost two thirds of respondents feel this way.

When interviewed about the quality of their mobile connections, around one in four households reports a certain degree of dissatisfaction.

Around one in four EU households considers that the download/upload speed and capacity of its Internet connection do not match the contract conditions.

Also, more than one third of EU households report Internet connection break downs.

A majority of EU households said that they never considered changing their Internet service provider (58%) or their service package provider (60%).

The research conducted as part of this survey also reveals, with respect to Internet access provisions and bundles, that only 12% of households are active switchers, that around 15% of households would like to switch but are hindered for a number of reasons and eventually that three quarters of households can be considered as inertial consumers.

EU citizens are increasingly concerned about data privacy, with 88% (+4) wanting to know if their data was lost, stolen or altered in any way. Respondents in Cyprus and Sweden are the most concerned with almost everyone (100% and 98% respectively) wanting to be informed about any breaches in data security.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_362_en.pdf

---

180-43-11. Youth Attitudes on Drugs (Multi-country survey)

Main findings

Access to drugs, alcohol and tobacco within 24 hours

Young people considered cannabis to be the most easily accessible of the illicit substances. For example, 20% of interviewees said it would be *impossible* for them to get hold of ecstasy and 28% thought it would be *very difficult.* By comparison, just 11% thought it would be *impossible* to obtain cannabis and a similar number (13%) said this would be *very difficult.*

Overall, 57% of young people participating in the survey indicated that they thought it was *easy* or *fairly easy* to obtain cannabis **within 24 hours**. Somewhat more than a fifth of respondents said the same for cocaine and ecstasy (both 22%), while 13% indicated they could obtain heroin within that time frame.

Having access to alcohol and tobacco seemed to cause no problems for young people in the EU: a **vast majority thought that it would be *very easy* for them to obtain alcoholic drinks (82%) or tobacco products (81%).** These numbers did not significantly differ across age groups, despite the fact that access to alcohol and tobacco is restricted for younger age groups in all Member States.

For **illicit drugs – heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis** – the results were more heterogeneous. Spanish, Italian and Danish respondents were consistently found at the lower end of the country rankings, with more respondents finding it *very* or *fairly easy* to get hold of these substances within 24 hours. Cypriot, Greek and Finnish interviewees, on the other hand, were more likely to say it would be *impossible* to obtain the aforementioned illicit drugs.

As regards to the **use of cannabis**, roughly a quarter of young EU citizens participating in the survey said they have used cannabis; more precisely, 6% reported having used cannabis in the past 30 days, 8% in the past year and 12% had used it, although not in the past 12 months.

As regards to the use of **new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs *(also referred to as new psychoactive substances or "legal highs")***, often in form of powder, tablets, pills or herbs, 5% of young people participating in the survey reported having used these substances. Ireland, Poland, Latvia and the UK were at the higher end of the country ranking, while Italy, Finland and Greece were found at the lower end. *Note: caution should be exercised* *when interpreting these results because this category can be understood to include a variety of different substances.*

Of those young people who had experience with new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs, 54% indicated they had been offered such substances by friends, against 37% who had been offered such substances during a party or in a pub and 33% who had bought these substances in a specialised shop, e.g. a smart shop. Just 7% of interviewees had bought these substances over the Internet. These numbers vary significantly across Member States, which may be related to the availability of certain distribution channels, such as specialised shops, in some countries.

Preferred sources of drug-related information

More than 6 in 10 (64%) respondents said they would use the Internet to get information about illicit drugs and drug use in general; only in Cyprus, Greece and Malta did figures fall below 50%. In significant contrast, just 15% of young people would consult other mass media sources – TV, radio, newspapers and magazines – to get informed about illicit drugs and drug use in general.

Almost 4 in 10 (37%) respondents would turn to a friend in order to discuss issues relating to the effects and risks of using illicit drugs, while somewhat more than a quarter (28%) preferred to talk to their parents or other relatives. A health professional, such as a doctor or nurse, was also selected by the same number of interviewees (28%) and one in five (20%) would contact a specialised drugs counsellor or someone at a drugs centre.

The more formalised/institutionalised information sources – a drugs counsellor or health professional – had been the ones most likely to be used by young people in 2004, and, at that time, fewer respondents selected the Internet as a way of finding out about drugs. However, compared to 2002, the Internet was making headway in 2004 as a source of drug-related information. This increasing importance of the potential use of the Internet for this purpose had been confirmed in 2008 when the Internet became the most likely information source for young people.

There was a **great similarity across Member States**, with many young people across different age groups **opting for similar sources** (the Internet, a friend). Consultation of parents/relatives and of people at school or at work diminished at a higher age, while consultation of a doctor, nurse or other health professional strongly increased. The potential contact with the police (mentioned by 9%), social workers (also 9%) and a telephone helpline (6%) was relatively stable across age groups.

Despite the above findings, which referred to methods that young people may choose when they have questions about drugs, **the Internet was not actually the channel through which respondents were most frequently informed about the effects and risk of illicit drug use in the 12 months prior to the survey.** In the past year, 39% of interviewees had been informed about drug-related issues through the Internet, compared to 46% who said they had been informed through a media campaign and 41% who mentioned a school prevention programme.

Furthermore, the findings showed that the information channels through which young people were informed changed considerably from one age group to the other. For example, 36% of 15-18 year-olds, as opposed to 55% of 22-24 year-olds, answered that they had been informed through a media campaign. Similarly, 63% of 15-18 year-olds, as opposed 18% of the 22-24 year-olds, had been informed through a school prevention programme.

In both 2008 and 2011, the most frequently mentioned information channel was a media campaign(s), followed by school prevention programmes and the Internet. Compared to 2008, the gap between the proportion of young people who mentioned school prevention programmes and those who referred to the Internet has lessened – this suggests that the Internet has become somewhat more important as a source for drug-related information.

Health risks associated with drug use

A high percentage of interviewees **(more than 90%) thought that using cocaine or ecstasy on a *regular basis* would pose a *high* risk to a person's health.** The picture was quite different for young people's perceptions about the health risks associated with *occasional use* of cocaine and ecstasy; these risks were considered to be *high* by 66% and 59%, respectively.

In almost all EU Member States, the health risks associated with *occasional* use of ecstasy were perceived as being less serious than those associated with *occasional* use of cocaine. As in 2008, this was most noticeable in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Latvia.

Although 91% of young people recognised the health risks (*medium* or *high*) associated with *regular use* of cannabis, just two-thirds (67%) thought it might pose a *high* risk to a person's health. Furthermore, **30% said that using cannabis *once or twice* posed only a *low* risk to a person's health and 14% said there was *no risk* involved.** Young people in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Spain appeared to be the least concerned about the impact of *occasional* cannabis use on a person's health.

The 2008 survey also assessed young people's perceptions of the health risks associated with each drug under review; respondents, however, were not asked to distinguish between *regular* and *occasional use*. As in the current survey, a large majority of respondents in 2008 thought that cocaine and ecstasy posed *a high risk* to someone's health; only half as many respondents, however, had this opinion about cannabis.

Young people who had used cannabis also perceived the health risks associated with its use to be less serious. Just 36% of young people who had used cannabis in the past 12 months thought that the health risks associated with *regular* use of this drug were *high*; this proportion increased to 55% for respondents who had used cannabis, but not in the past 12 months, and to 75% for respondents who had never used cannabis. Smaller differences were seen between these groups when asked about the health risks associated with regular use of cocaine, heroin or alcohol use.

Looking at the results for alcohol, 91% of young people were aware of the health risks (*medium* or *high*) linked to *regular* consumption of alcohol; these risks were considered to be *high* by 57% of 15-24 year-olds.

Bans or regulation of drugs, new psychoactive substances, alcohol and tobacco

There was a **broad consensus among young people that heroin, cocaine and ecstasy should continue to be banned in EU Member States –** almost all respondents agreed with this: 96% for heroin, 94% for cocaine and 92% for ecstasy. These opinions did not significantly change compared to the results of the 2008 survey.

The opinions of young people in the different Member States were more diversified when they were asked if cannabis should continue to be banned; the proportion thinking that governments should uphold such a ban ranged from 33% in the Netherlands and 39% in the Czech Republic, to 87% in Romania.

A comparison with the results obtained in 2008 showed that, in the current survey, a lower proportion of young people thought cannabis should continue to be banned in EU Member States (59% in 2011 vs. 67% in 2008).

A large majority of young people across all EU Member States agreed that legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco should continue to be regulated; only 16% wanted to ban tobacco and 7% would choose to prohibit alcohol. Furthermore, 19% *spontaneously* said that tobacco products should be available without restrictions and 16% wanted alcoholic drinks to be freely available.

As regards to **new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs**, roughly a third (34%) of respondents thought that the best response would be to ban *all new substances* that imitate the effects of illicit drugs, while about one in two (47%) interviewees thought it would be better to ban *only those substances that posed a risk to someone's health*.

Actions to reduce drug problems in society

As in 2008, the largest proportion of respondents thought that **public authorities should tackle drug problems on the supply side of the drug economy**: 64% mentioned tough measures against drug dealers and traffickers as a valuable way of dealing with drug problems.

Young people also supported other measures to tackle drug problems, including prevention, information and health care services. About half (49%) of interviewers preferred information and prevention campaigns and almost 4 in 10 (37%) selected the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, as opposed to a third (33%) who opted for tough measures against drug users. This last-named measure received the lowest support in Greece (17%), Denmark and Portugal (22%-23%) and the highest support in Romania (50%) and the Czech Republic (47%).

Reducing one of the possible root causes of drug use – i.e. poverty and unemployment – was mentioned by 24% of interviewees. A similar proportion (23%) thought that offering more leisure opportunities would be an effective way of dealing with drug problems.

In almost all Member States, as with the average EU results, **a smaller group of respondents (13%) chose the legalisation of drugs** as being one of the most effective ways of fighting drug problems, with France and Ireland at the higher end of the country ranking (22%-21%), and the Czech Republic and Romania at the lower end (5%-6%).

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_330_en.pdf

---

180-43-12. Half of Britons Would Vote to Leave the European Union in a Referendum **(07/12/11) -**

Only one third of respondents believe EU membership has been positive for the United Kingdom.

The level of animosity towards the European Union (EU) in Britain remains high, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,003 British adults, a majority of respondents (57%) believe that EU membership has been negative for the United Kingdom, while only one third (32%) think it has had a positive effect.

Respondents aged 18-to-34 are more likely to express positive feelings about the EU (45%) than those aged 35-to-54 (31%) and those over the age of 55 (22%).

Half of Britons (49%) say they would vote against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU if a referendum took place, while only one-in-four (25%) would vote to stay. Older respondents favour the idea of abandoning the EU by a 3-to-1 margin (68% to 19%).

Finally, Britons oppose the notion of the UK adopting the euro as its national currency by a 10-to-1 margin, with 81 per cent of respondents saying they would reject this course of action in a referendum.

Methodology: From July 2 to July 4, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,003 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Source:http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/43951/half-of-britons-would-vote-to-leave-the-european-union-in-a-referendum/

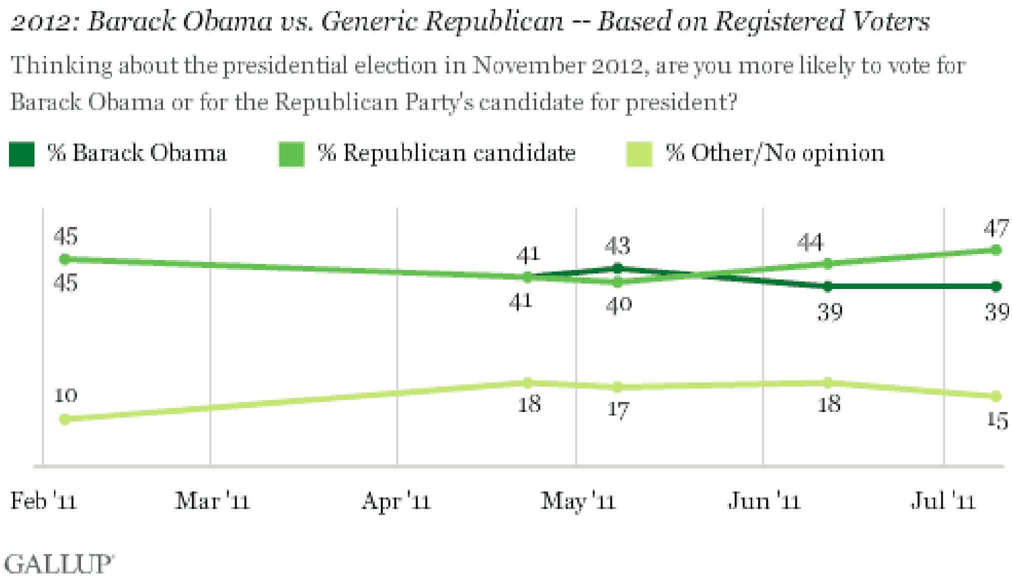
NORTH AMERICA

180-43-13. "Republican Candidate" Extends Lead vs. Obama to 47% to 39%

Margin marks first statistically significant lead among registered voters

July 14, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Registered voters by a significant margin now say they are more likely to vote for the "Republican Party's candidate for president" than for President Barack Obama in the 2012 election, 47% to 39%. Preferences had been fairly evenly divided this year in this test of Obama's re-election prospects.



The latest results are based on a July 7-10 poll, and show that the Republican has an edge for the second consecutive month. Obama held a slight edge in May, when his approval rating increased after the death of Osama bin Laden. As his rating has come back down during the last two months, so has his standing on the presidential "generic ballot."

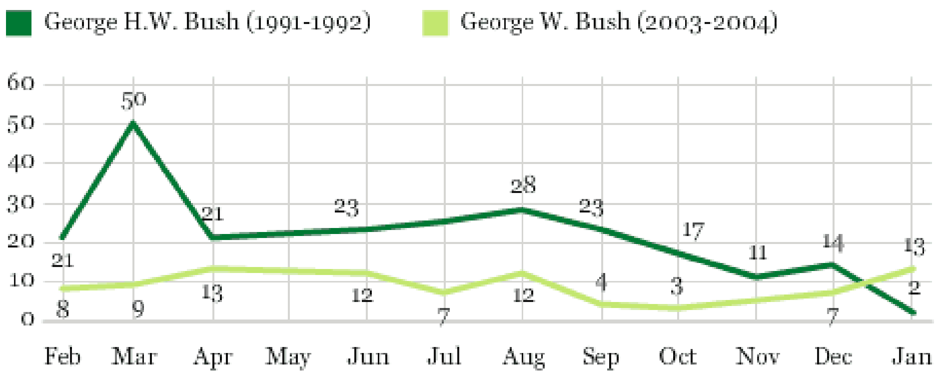
Gallup typically uses this question format when a president is seeking re-election but his likely opponent is unknown, as was the case in 1991-1992 and 2003-2004, when incumbents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, respectively, were seeking re-election.

The elder Bush held large leads over his generic Democratic opponent throughout 1991, but early 1992 preferences were more evenly divided and Bush eventually lost his re-election bid.

The younger Bush also consistently maintained at least a small advantage over the Democrat throughout 2003, before winning re-election in a close contest in November 2004.

Lead for Incumbent President Over Generic Opponent, February of Year Before Election Through January of Election Year

Based on registered voters



Note: Figures represent average when multiple readings are taken in a single month.

GALLUP

Thus, the results more than a year ahead of the election do not have a large degree of predictive ability, and underscore that things can change greatly in the final year or more before an election.

Both Bushes had higher job approval ratings in the year before their re-election contests than Obama does now, helping explain why Obama has fared less well on the generic ballot in the year prior to the election year. George H.W. Bush's approval rating in July 1991 averaged 71%, while George W. Bush's July 2003 average was 60%. Obama's latest weekly average is 46%.

Obama Trailing Among Independent Voters

Independent registered voters are currently more likely to vote for the Republican candidate (44%) than for Obama (34%), though one in five do not have an opinion. Republicans and Democrats show strong party loyalty in their vote choices, with Republicans showing somewhat stronger loyalty.

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

	All registered voters	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
	%	%	%	%
Obama	39	4	34	81
Republican candidate	47	88	44	8
Other/No opinion	15	9	22	11

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

Independents' preferences are similar to what Gallup measured last month, while Republicans' support for the Republican candidate has increased slightly.

Implications

President Obama's re-election prospects do not look very favorable at this point -- if the election were held today, as measured by the generic presidential ballot. However, that result does not necessarily mean he is likely to be denied a second term in November 2012. At this point in 1991, George H.W. Bush looked like a sure bet to win a second term, but he was defeated.

One key factor in determining Obama's eventual electoral fate is whom the Republican Party nominates as its presidential candidate and the appeal that person has compared with Obama. Mitt Romney is the presumptive front-runner, but Americans have generally not held very positive opinions of him the last few years.

The state of the nation will also influence whether Obama is elected to a second term. Right now, Americans are especially dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country, and economic confidence is lagging.

However, the political environment can certainly change in the 16 months leading up to the election, something that occurred during the 1984 and 1996 election cycles (in the incumbent's favor) and 1992 cycle (in the opponent's favor) when incumbent presidents were seeking re-election.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, with a random sample of 897 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/148487/Republican-Candidate-Extends-Lead-Obama.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

180-43-14. Christie Ahead of Obama in Hypothetical, 6 Others in Dead Heat With President

July 12, 2011

Bachmann Leads Announced GOP Field for Nomination

UTICA, NY - New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has a four-point lead in a hypothetical Presidential race against Barack Obama, while Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty, Ron Paul, Herman Cain, Rick Perry and Michele Bachmann are in statistical ties with Obama, a new IBOPE Zogby survey finds.

The percentage of all voters who believe Obama deserves re-election continues to slide, and is now 36%, yet his job approval rating remains at 42%.

In the Republican race for the Presidential nomination, Bachmann continues to lead among announced candidates; but in an expanded field that includes Rick Perry, Christie and Sarah Palin, Perry vaults to the lead.

Perry had a three-point lead over Bachmann on June 30, but now leads her by six. Among only announced candidates, Bachmann has dropped six points since June 30, but still leads with 28%, followed by Cain, Romney and Paul.

The IBOPE Zogby interactive poll was conducted from July 8-11.

Match-Ups With Barack Obama

If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama and each of the following Republicans, for whom would you vote?

GOP Candidate	Obama	Opponent	Someone else	Not Sure
Chris Christie	41%	45%	6%	8%
Mitt Romney	42%	43%	12%	3%
Rick Perry	42%	43%	8%	7%
Tim Pawlenty	41%	41%	11%	8%
Herman Cain	42%	42%	11%	6%
Ron Paul	40%	40%	14%	6%
Michele Bachmann	44%	42%	9%	6%
Rick Santorum	44%	39%	12%	6%
Jon Huntsman Jr.	39%	31%	18%	12%
Sarah Palin	47%	37%	13%	3%
Newt Gingrich	45%	33%	19%	4%

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

Response	July 11	July 5	June 21	June 9	June 6	May 31	May 9	May 5	April 25
Obama deserves to be re-elected	36%	38%	39%	39%	41%	41%	41%	42%	37%
Time for someone new	54%	56%	55%	52%	53%	51%	50%	53%	57%
Not sure	10%	6%	7%	9%	7%	8%	10%	6%	6%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

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

Obama Job Performance	**July 12**	**July 5**	**June 21**	**June 9**	**June 6**	**May 31**	**May 23**	**May 9**	**May 5**	**April 25**	**April 15**	**April 7**
Approve	42%	42%	43%	43%	46%	48%	48%	48%	46%	41%	43%	42%
Disapprove	58%	58%	56%	56%	53%	52%	51%	52%	54%	59%	57%	57%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Announced GOP Candidates Only (GOP primary voters)

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

Candidate	**July 11**	**June 30**	**June 21**
Michele Bachmann	28%	34%	24%
Herman Cain	16%	15%	15%
Mitt Romney	15%	14%	15%
Ron Paul	13%	11%	13%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	4%	6%
Jon Huntsman Jr.	4%	4%	2%
Newt Gingrich	4%	2%	2%
Rick Santorum	3%	7%	5%
Gary Johnson	1%	<1%	2%
Fred Karger	<1%	0%	0%
Not sure	10%	8%	13%
Other	4%	1%	4%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Announced GOP Candidates Plus Christie, Perry & Palin (GOP primary voters)

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

Candidate	**July 11**	**June 30**
Rick Perry	21%	18%
Michele Bachmann	15%	15%
Chris Christie	12%	17%
Ron Paul	10%	10%
Herman Cain	10%	8%
Mitt Romney	8%	8%
Sarah Palin	5%	9%
Jon Huntsman Jr.	3%	3%
Newt Gingrich	2%	1%
Rick Santorum	1%	3%
Tim Pawlenty	1%	1%
Gary Johnson	1%	<1%
Fred Karger	0%	0%
Other	1%	<1%
Not sure	8%	6%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

We also asked Republican primary voters whom they would never vote for and whom they believe would win the GOP nomination. Christie, Perry and Palin are included in both.

Which of the following candidates would you never vote for? (May choose more than one.) **(GOP primary voters)**

Candidate	**GOP Primary Voters**
Newt Gingrich	43%
Jon Huntsman Jr	36%
Ron Paul	35%
Fred Karger	32%
Sarah Palin	32%
Gary Johnson	29%
Mitt Romney	27%
Rick Santorum	21%
Michele	17%

Bachmann	
Tim Pawlenty	16%
Herman Cain	16%
Rick Perry	14%
Chris Christie	12%
Not sure	20%

Regardless of whom you intend to vote for, who do you think will get the nomination? **(GOP primary voters)**

Candidate	**GOP Primary Voters**
Mitt Romney	39%
Rick Perry	17%
Michele Bachmann	7%
Ron Paul	4%
Chris Christie	2%
Tim Pawlenty	1%
Herman Cain	1%
Jon Huntsman Jr	1%
Rick Santorum	1%
Sarah Palin	1%
Newt Gingrich	<1%
Other	1%
Not sure	26%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Other results from all voters include:

- 66% say the nation is headed on the wrong track and 21% say it is headed in the right direction.
- 19% approve of the job Congress is doing;
- 27% approve of the job Congressional Democrats are doing;
- 29% approve of the job Congressional Republicans are doing.

IBOPE Zogby International conducted an online survey of 2,132 likely voters. A sampling of IBOPE Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the US, was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender and education to more accurately reflect the population. The margin of error is +/- 2.2 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. The MOE calculation is for sampling error only.

The sample of likely Republican primary voters totaled 1,015. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

ABOUT IBOPE Zogby International

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

Please visit www.ibopezogby.com for more information on IBOPE Zogby International.

Source:http://www.zogby.com/news/2011/07/12/ibope-zogby-poll-christie-ahead-obama-hypothetical-6-others-dead-heat-president/

180-43-15. Majority Prefer Cuts Over Revenue Increases

60% Say Reduce Defense Spending

July 11, 2011

UTICA, NY - Nine in 10 voters say it is important for Congress and President Barack Obama to reduce the nation's long-term debt, and a majority prefer spending cuts over increased revenues as the means of accomplishing that goal, a new IBOPE Zogby Interactive poll finds

The July 8-11 survey finds two-thirds favor means testing for Medicare based on a person's wealth, but similar percentages oppose reducing cost-of-living increases for Social Security and reducing provider payments in Medicare and Medicaid.

There is strong agreement to reduce defense spending (60%), end some tax loopholes and preferences (85%) and to reduce discretionary spending outside of entitlements and defense (62%).

Two-thirds oppose ending the Bush tax cuts for everyone, yet voters are closely split on ending the Bush tax cuts for those earning more than $250,000 annually and on lowering corporate tax rates.

How important do you believe it is for Congress and President Obama to agree and enact measures which will reduce the nation's long-term debt?

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Very + somewhat important	91%	88%	97%	89%
Not very + Not at all important	8%	11%	3%	10%
Not sure	1%	<1%	<1	1%

In order to reduce the deficit, the government must either reduce expenditures and/or increase revenue. Which of these do you believe comes closest to the best possible ratio of reduced expenditures and increased revenue?

Response	All Voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Only reduced expenditures	36%	12%	65%	37%
More from reduced expenditures, but some increased revenues	22%	14%	28%	28%
More from increased revenues, but some reduced expenditures	23%	42%	3%	20%
Only increased revenues	3%	7%	<1%	2%
An even split between increased revenues and reduced expenditures	13%	22%	4%	11%

Not sure	2%	4%	1%	2%

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

Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of these proposals being considered as ways to reduce the nation's debt.

Reduce the cost of living adjustments in Social Security

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	27%	12%	39%	35%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	67%	85%	57%	55%
Not sure	6%	3%	5%	10%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Reduce provider payments in Medicare and Medicaid

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	22%	15%	28%	26%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	70%	80%	67%	63%
Not sure	7%	6%	5%	12%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Reduce defense spending

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	60%	84%	34%	58%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	37%	13%	64%	40%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	2%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Means testing for Medicare that would increase rates or reduce benefits based on an individual's wealth

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	65%	63%	68%	66%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	29%	34%	28%	25%
Not sure	6%	4%	4%	9%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Reduce discretionary spending outside of entitlements and defense

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents

Strongly + somewhat agree	62%	37%	88%	66%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	35%	59%	11%	30%
Not sure	3%	4%	2%	5%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Ending some tax loopholes and preferences

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	85%	98%	71%	82%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	13%	1%	26%	14%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	4%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Lowering corporate tax rates

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	48%	21%	78%	52%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	46%	71%	19%	44%
Not sure	6%	9%	3%	4%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Ending the Bush tax cuts for everyone

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	30%	51%	7%	28%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	65%	45%	91%	64%
Not sure	5%	4%	3%	9%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Ending the Bush tax cuts only for those earning more than $250,000 a year

Response	All voters	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly + somewhat agree	50%	81%	16%	48%
Strongly + somewhat disagree	48%	18%	81%	49%
Not sure	2%	1%	2%	3%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

The IBOPE Zogby interactive poll of 2,132 likely voters has a margin of error of +/-2.2%.

A sampling of IBOPE Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender and education to more accurately reflect the population.

ABOUT IBOPE Zogby International

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

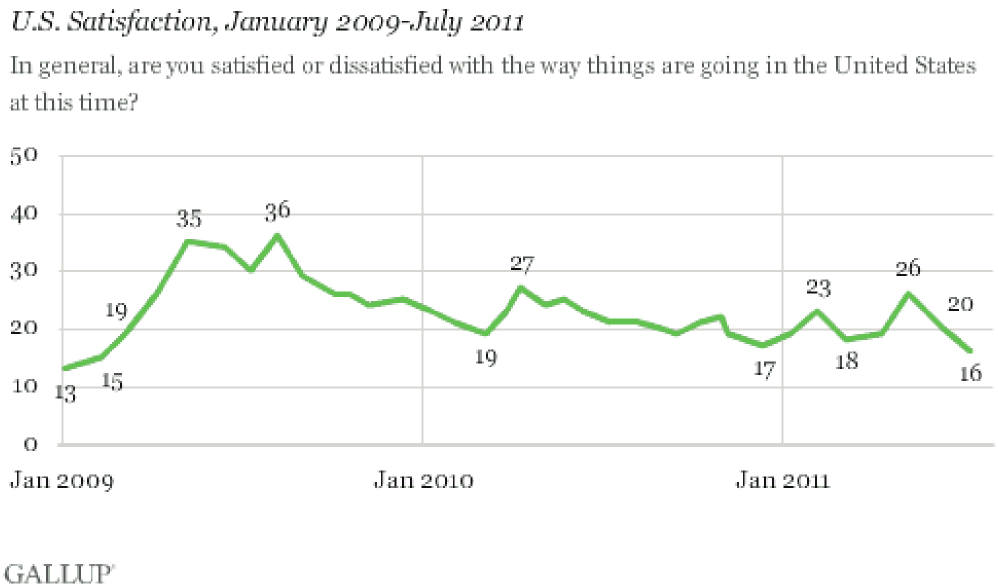
Source:http://www.zogby.com/news/2011/07/11/ibope-zogby-national-debt-poll-majority-prefer-cuts-over-revenue-increases/

180-43-16. U.S. Satisfaction Slides to Two-Year Low

Decline to 16% in July from 20% in June mainly the result of drop among Democrats

July 14, 2011

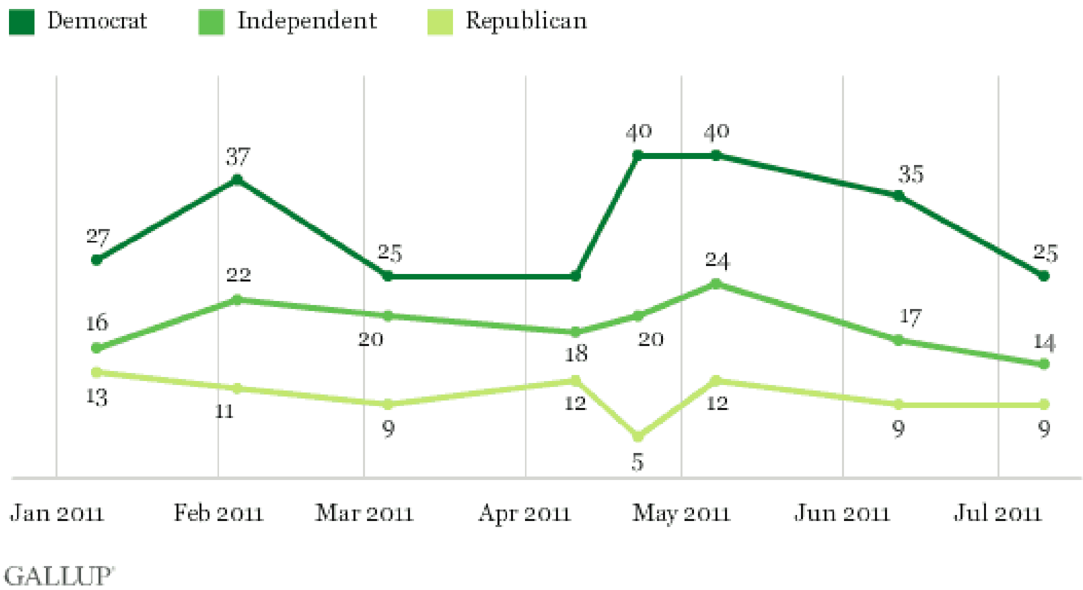
PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the country fell to 16% in July, the lowest in more than two years. Satisfaction approached this level in December 2010, when it descended to 17%, but it has not registered as low as 16% since February 2009 -- President Barack Obama's first full month in office -- when it was 15%.



The new poll was conducted July 7-10 as Congress and Obama were engaged in heated negotiations over a bill to raise the nation's debt ceiling.

Satisfaction fell four percentage points just in the last month, from 20% in June. Among party groups, Democrats' satisfaction has dropped the most, from 35% to 25%. Independents' satisfaction in June and July was fairly steady at 17% and 14%, respectively, and Republicans' was unchanged at 9%.

U.S. Satisfaction by Party ID, January-July 2011 -- Percentage Satisfied



Additionally, whites' satisfaction fell more sharply over the past month -- to 12% in July from 17% in June -- than nonwhites', to 26% from 29%.

Reason for Reduced Satisfaction Unclear

The recent slide in approval could partly signal a return to more "normal" levels of satisfaction after the surge in May following the killing of Osama bin Laden. However, rather than reverting to April's 22% level, satisfaction has descended even further.

Americans' economic confidence is unchanged thus far in July compared with June; therefore, the economy does not appear to be the reason for Americans' lower satisfaction with the country's direction.

Public approval of President Obama and Congress has also been fairly steady in June and July, albeit at relatively low levels for each.

Bottom Line

Fewer Americans are satisfied with the way things are going in the country today than were satisfied in June or in any month since February 2009. The recent month-to-month decline is seen particularly among Democrats, but is also evident among whites, broadly.

Americans' approval of Obama and of Congress, along with their economic confidence ratings, are all similar to where they stood in June, as well as prior to the bin Laden-related rally in April. Whether the dampened satisfaction this month is a temporary finding or the precursor for a possible decline in Gallup's political and economic indicators remains to be seen.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,016 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/148475/Satisfaction-Slides-Two-Year-Low.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

180-43-17. On Deficit, Americans Prefer Spending Cuts; Open to Tax Hikes

Twenty percent favor deficit reduction by cutting spending only

July 13, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' preferences for deficit reduction clearly favor spending cuts to tax increases, but most Americans favor a mix of the two approaches. Twenty percent favor an approach that relies only on spending cuts and 4% favor an approach that uses tax increases alone.

Preferences for Spending Cuts vs. Tax Increases to Reduce the Deficit

As you may know, Congress can reduce the federal budget deficit by cutting spending, raising taxes, or a combination of the two. Ideally, how would you prefer to see Congress attempt to reduce the federal budget deficit -- [ROTATED: only with spending cuts, mostly with spending cuts, equally with spending cuts and tax increases, mostly with tax increases, (or) only with tax increases]?

	%
Only with spending cuts	20
Mostly with spending cuts	30
Equally with spending cuts and tax increases	32
Mostly with tax increases	7
Only with tax increases	4
Total: Only/Mostly with spending cuts	50
Total: Only/Mostly with tax increases	11

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

These results are based on a July 7-10 Gallup poll, conducted as government leaders from both parties continued negotiating an agreement to raise the federal debt limit. Both Republicans and Democrats appear willing to raise the debt limit, provided the government outlines plans to significantly reduce federal deficits in the future. The parties generally agree on making deep spending cuts, but do not agree on whether tax increases should be included to help reach their target goals for deficit reduction. Many Republicans in Congress oppose any such tax increases; thus, the legislation may not pass if tax hikes are included.

Americans do not necessarily share this view, with 20% saying deficit reduction should come only through spending cuts. That percentage is a little higher, 26%, among those who identify as Republicans. Republicans do, however, tilt heavily in favor of reducing the deficit primarily if not exclusively with spending cuts (67%) as opposed to tax increases (3%). Fifty-one percent of independents share that preference. Democrats are most inclined to want equal amounts of spending cuts and tax increases (42%), though more favor a tilt toward spending cuts (33%) than tax increases (20%).

Preferences for Spending Cuts vs. Tax Increases to Reduce the Deficit, by Political Party

	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
	%	%	%
Only with spending cuts	26	23	10
Mostly with spending cuts	41	28	23
Equally with spending cuts and tax increases	24	30	42
Mostly with tax increases	2	7	12
Only with tax increases	1	4	8
Total: Only/Mostly with spending cuts	67	51	33
Total: Only/Mostly with tax increases	3	11	20

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

The question does not make clear what types of tax increases Americans might be willing to accept, or whether those saying deficit reduction should come "mostly" from spending cuts would prefer that the proportion of spending cuts be closer to 51% or 99%. The public has been willing to endorse higher taxes on wealthy Americans in recent months, in terms of allowing Bush-era income tax cuts to expireand as a means of keeping Social Security solvent.

Spending a Key Worry for Americans on Debt Limit Increase

Gallup finds about 6 in 10 Americans paying close attention to the debate about raising the debt limit. When the same poll asked for their general position on raising the limit, without providing reasons for doing so or not doing so, Americans were more likely to oppose an increase than favor one. The 42% who are opposed to doing so generally find fault with the government's spending patterns when asked in an open-ended format to explain their views.

The most common reasons given for opposing an increased debt limit are that the U.S. already has too much debt and cannot afford more, that the government needs to control its spending, and that it needs to do a better job of budgeting and living within its means. Another common response is that raising the debt limit does not implicitly address the government's debt problem, and that government would likely just keep raising the limit in the future.

What are some of the reasons why you would want your member of Congress to vote against raising the debt ceiling? [OPEN-ENDED]

Based on those who want their member of Congress to vote against raising the debt ceiling

	%
Already have too much debt/Cannot afford more	38
Need to stop spending/Cut spending	21
Does not address problem/Would keep raising limit in future	17
U.S. needs to live within its means/budget better	13
Would lead to tax increases/Taxes are already too high	6
U.S. should pay off debt it already owes	4
Harmful to future generations	3
Cut government jobs/reduce salaries first	2
Stop giving money/aid to other countries	2
Being in debt to other countries not good for U.S.	1
U.S. is broke/bankrupt	1
Other	3
No reason in particular	4
No opinion	1

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

The smaller proportion of Americans who favor an increase to the debt limit, 22%, are most likely to believe the United States has little choice in the matter -- in other words, the action may be undesirable but is necessary. Most commonly, proponents say they favor increasing the limit to avoid an economic catastrophe, which some experts including Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner predict will occur if the government is no longer able to borrow money. The other most common reasons for favoring a higher debt limit are that the U.S. cannot default on its debt, that the country simply has "no choice" in the matter, and to avoid a disruption of government services and benefits.

What are some of the reasons why you would want your member of Congress to vote in favor of raising the debt ceiling? [OPEN-ENDED]

Based on those who want their member of Congress to vote for raising the debt ceiling

	%
To avoid economic catastrophe	32
To not default on debt	23
Necessary/No choice	17
To avoid government shutdown/suspension of services/benefits	16
Would have negative effect on U.S. standing in world	7
To avoid credit downgrade of U.S.	6
Other	7
No reason in particular	5
No opinion	1

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

Responses on both sides to a large degree reflect the arguments political leaders are making. Two of the most common, and arguably the dominant themes of the open-ended responses, are concerns about the effect that not raising the debt limit will have on the economy versus concerns that raising it will not sufficiently address government spending. In the same poll, Gallup asked Americans which of these two risks concerned them more, and the public expressed greater concern about raising the debt ceiling without a plan for major cuts in future government spending (51%) than about the potential harm to the economy if the debt ceiling is not raised (32%).

Implications

Government spending seems to be the primary worry for Americans when their opinions are probed about raising the debt limit. Government leaders appear to be listening, as party leaders are proposing major cuts in future government spending as a way to persuade members of Congress to vote for an increase in the nation's debt limit. In terms of deficit reduction, Americans seem to generally back an approach that relies more on spending cuts than tax increases. A key question to be answered in the days ahead is whether an agreement to raise the debt ceiling will include any tax increases. This is something many Republican members of Congress oppose, but most Americans do not seem to share this view.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, with a random sample of 1,016 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

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

For results based on the total sample of 460 adults who oppose the government raising the debt ceiling, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±6 percentage points.

For results based on the total sample of 273 adults who favor the government raising the debt ceiling, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±7 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/148472/Deficit-Americans-Prefer-Spending-Cuts-Open-Tax-Hikes.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

180-43-18. Majority of Republicans Can't Name a 2012 Favorite

Romney, Bachmann most often mentioned by those with a preference

July 15, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- More than half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 58%, do not express a preference when asked in an open-ended format -- with no candidates' names read -- whom they are most likely to support for the party's 2012 presidential nomination. Those who do have a preference most often mention Mitt Romney and Michele Bachmann.

Thinking about the men and women who are running or are likely to run for the Republican Party's 2012 presidential nomination, who are you most likely to support for the Republican nomination? [OPEN-ENDED]

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	%
Mitt Romney	13
Michele Bachmann	9
Rick Perry	4
Sarah Palin	3
Herman Cain	2
Jon Huntsman	1
Tim Pawlenty	1
Newt Gingrich	1
Rick Santorum	1
Ron Paul	1
Other	7
None/No opinion	58

Gallup, July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

The July 7-10 poll result illustrates the uncertainty surrounding who the Republican challenger to President Barack Obama is likely to be in the 2012 presidential election. The high level of "no opinion" responses suggests that many Republicans are not highly engaged in the campaign to this point, and may be unclear about who is running. It also could indicate that Republicans who are familiar with the GOP field may not yet feel comfortable backing a particular candidate for the nomination.

Gallup typically reads a list of candidate names when gauging nomination preferences. In the most recent update using this closed-ended approach, Romney was the leading candidate. But even with this method, Gallup finds a fairly high degree of uncertainty, with roughly one in five Republicans not having a preference even after being read a list of the likely candidates. That is a higher percentage of "no opinion" responses than Gallup has found at comparable points in prior GOP nomination contests.

Percentage With No Opinion on Republican Presidential Nomination Preference (Gallup Closed-Ended Ballot)

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	% No opinion
2011	18
2007	8
1999	3
1995	12
1987	15
1979	5

Data are based on polls from June of each year.

GALLUP

Open-ended questions usually produce a higher percentage of "no opinion" responses than do questions in which respondents are offered choices, so it is not unexpected that the percentage with no opinion is much higher than in the closed-ended format.

So while the open-ended format may provide less guidance about current preferences than the closed-ended approach, it does have the advantage of not biasing respondents toward the choices offered. In nomination preference questions, the choices offered are typically the most prominent candidates in the field, which means those questions could underestimate support for less well-known candidates. But the open-ended results from the current poll do not suggest there is a lesser-known candidate excluded from the closed-ended questions who has significant support.

In all, 10 Republican candidates or potential candidates are named by at least 1% of respondents, 8 of whom are official candidates. Gallup includes 9 of these in its closed-ended ballot and in its tracking of candidate name recognition and favorability. The only exception is Texas Gov. Rick Perry -- mentioned by 4% -- who recently said he would reconsider his decision not to enter the race, and is expected to make an official announcement soon. Gallup will provide its initial estimates of Perry's name recognition and positive intensity next Tuesday.

On the other hand, Gallup has tracked the recognition and intensity of former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, but no Republicans in the current poll mentioned his name as the candidate they are most likely to support, casting doubt on whether his candidacy is likely to have an impact on the race.

In addition to Johnson, Michigan Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, former Louisiana Gov. Buddy Roemer, and former Republican strategist Fred Karger are other announced or likely Republican candidates who have lower profiles but have received some media attention. Of these, only Roemer received any mentions in the poll, and in his case it was by just one respondent. Earlier this year, Gallup measured Roemer's recognition (19% average) and positive intensity (average score of 0) and found both to be at low levels.

Implications

Rank-and-file Republicans do not appear to be highly tuned in to the party's nomination campaign at this point, as most are not able to state a preference for their party's 2012 presidential candidate. That to some degree could reflect the slower pace of the 2012 campaign, which has seen most candidates officially announce their candidacies much later than candidates announced in the 2008 presidential election cycle. The 2012 field has taken shape only recently, and it is still possible some prominent candidates such as Sarah Palin, Perry, and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani will run.

Also, to date, there has been just one debate that included something approximating the full field of candidates, held June 13 in New Hampshire, meaning rank-and-file Republicans have had little opportunity to evaluate the candidates in a comparative context.

As 2012 draws nearer and the campaign intensity picks up, Republicans will certainly become more familiar with the field of candidates and eventually settle on their preferred one. But it is clear from available data that the race is wide open.

Track every angle of the presidential race on Gallup.com's Election 2012 page.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, with a random sample of 482 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 ±6 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/148526/Majority-Republicans-Name-2012-Favorite.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

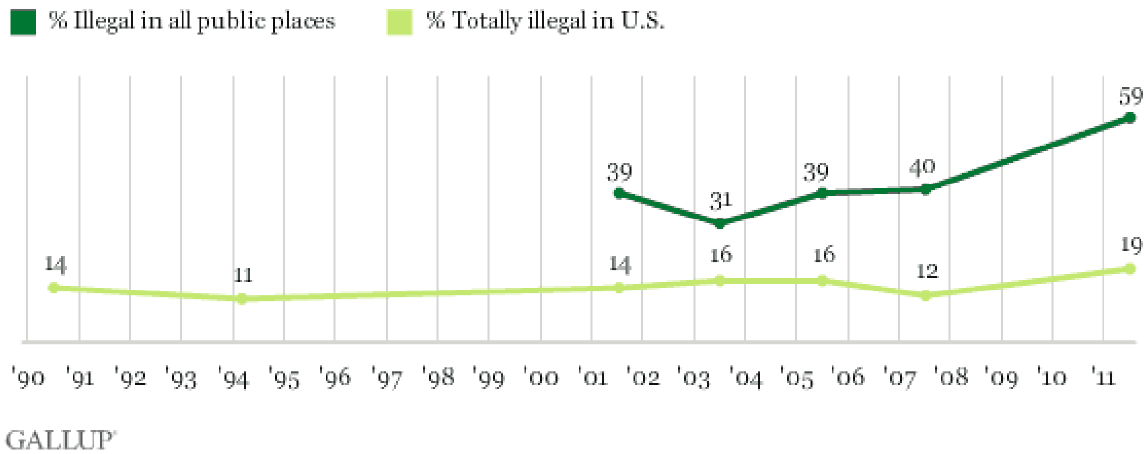
180-43-19. For First Time, Majority in U.S. Supports Public Smoking Ban

Little support for making smoking illegal, however

July 15, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- A majority of Americans (59%) support a ban on smoking in all public places for the first time since Gallup initially asked the question in 2001. At the same time, fewer than 2 in 10 support the idea of making smoking totally illegal in this country.

Support for Making Smoking Illegal in All Public Places, and Totally Illegal Across Country



According to the American Lung Association, 27 states plus the District of Columbia have passed comprehensive smoke-free laws. A New York City law bans smoking in virtually all public places, including outdoor plazas and beaches.

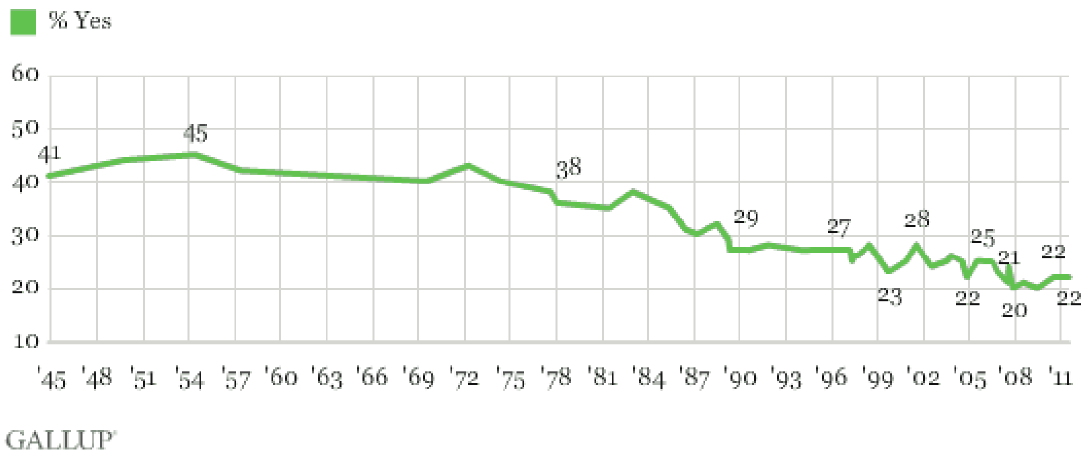
When Gallup first asked about a ban on public smoking in 2001, 39% were in favor, an attitude that stayed roughly the same through 2007, the last time Gallup asked the question until this year's July 7-10 survey.

Americans are much less supportive of the idea of a Prohibition-like law that would make smoking totally illegal within the United States. Nineteen percent support that option, not much different from the 14% who favored making smoking illegal in 1990, when Gallup first asked the question.

Adult Smoking Stable at 22%

Twenty-two percent of adult Americans in the July poll reported having smoked cigarettes within the last week, a percentage that is essentially unchanged over the last five years. On average, closer to 25% of American adults reported smoking between 1989 and 2007. Before that, Gallup surveys ranging back to World War II found the percentage who smoke in the 30% to 40% range. The highest smoking percentage as measured by Gallup was 45% in 1954.

Have you, yourself, smoked any cigarettes in the past week?



Another 24% of Americans say they are former smokers, meaning 55% of the adult population has never smoked on a regular basis.

Additionally, the self-reported number of cigarettes smokers say they smoke each day has dropped significantly over the years. In the July survey, 30% of smokers say they smoke a pack or more each day. As recently as 1997, over half smoked a pack or more a day.

Implications

A majority of Americans now support the concept of a full smoking ban in all public places, marking a significant change from four years ago, when Gallup last measured this attitude. Support for the control of smoking through legal means goes only so far, however. Relatively few Americans support the idea of making all smoking illegal across the country -- perhaps partly in recognition of the practical difficulties involved in enforcing such a ban.

Gallup did not ask Americans this year about bans on smoking in specific venues such as restaurants, bars, hotels, and workplaces. However, data on such policies from Gallup's research last July showed that, when given the options of a total ban, setting aside certain areas for smokers, or no restrictions at all, Americans were generally less likely to choose the total ban and more likely to select the "set aside" idea. The one exception to this pattern was restaurants, in which Americans favored a total ban on smoking. It's possible that the broad question about making smoking totally illegal in public places would produce different results if the option for setting aside areas for smokers had been included.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, with a random sample of 1,016 national 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 adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ±4 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of 170 smokers, the maximum margin of sampling error is ±9 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of 846 nonsmokers, 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.

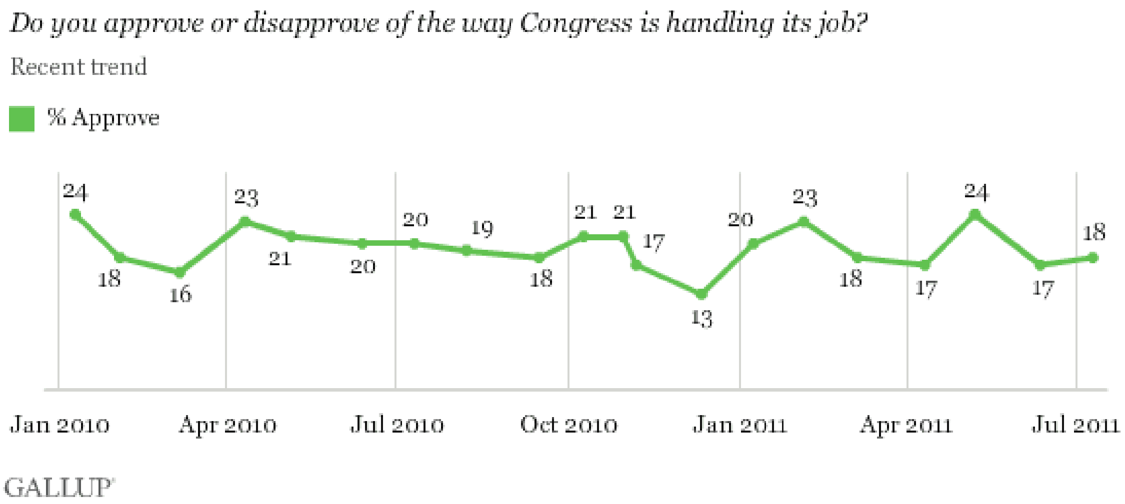
Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148514/First-Time-Majority-Supports-Public-Smoking-Ban.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA

180-43-20. Congress' Approval Entrenched at 18% as Debt Talks Continue

Democrats remain slightly more positive than Republicans or independents

July 11, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- A low and seemingly entrenched congressional job approval rating of 18% provides the backdrop for negotiations as congressional leaders work to reach a compromise on the federal budget and the U.S. debt ceiling. This is essentially unchanged from last month's 17% and reflective of the 20% average for the first seven months of 2011.



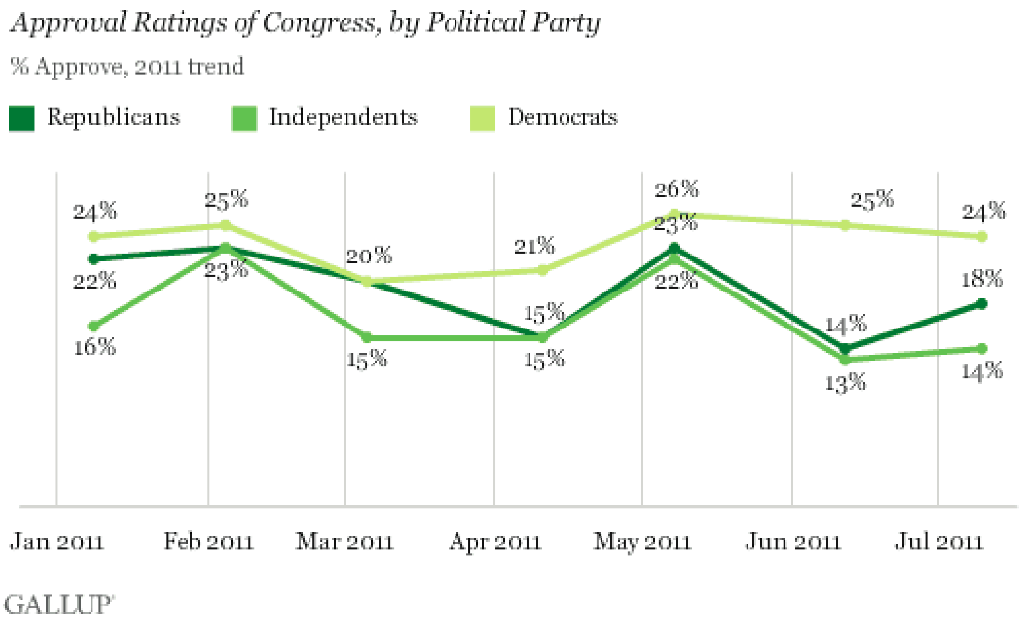
The latest findings are from a Gallup poll conducted July 7-10, as President Obama and House and Senate leaders worked through the weekend, attempting to reach an agreement on the federal budget ahead of the looming Aug. 2 deadline for raising the nation's debt ceiling. No agreement had been reached by Sunday night, when interviewing concluded.

Congress' 20% average job approval rating so far this year is essentially the same as that for all of 2010 (19%) and 2008 (19%). The exception to the recent low ratings was 2009, the first year of Obama's presidency, when Congress' approval rose to 30%.

This year's trend has shown some fluctuations on a monthly basis, notably a one-month increase to 24% in May, after U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden.

The all-time high for congressional approval since 1974 was 84% in October 2001, reflecting the rally effect that followed the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The all-time low was 13%, measured last December.Congressional job approval was also very low in 1979 and in 1992, years marked by economic problems, as is the case this year.

Democrats continue to give Congress modestly higher ratings than do independents or Republicans, but at 24%, Democrats' approval rating for Congress is hardly robust. Republicans' approval is up slightly, from 14% in June to 18% this month.



Implications

The ultimate impact of the current budget and debt ceiling negotiations on Americans' views of Congress will not be known until the matter is resolved.

Americans have been none too happy with their elected representatives in Washington for the past year and a half, and the current 18% job approval rating for Congress appears to reflect a continuation of this solidly negative view. These low ratings tie in with the recent finding that the significant majority of Americans feel most members of Congress do not deserve re-election, something that has no doubt entered elected representatives' thinking as budget negotiations continue.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, with a random sample of 1,016 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/148439/Congress-Approval-Entrenched-Debt-Talks-Continue.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

180-43-21. Americans Express Mixed Confidence in Criminal Justice System

Current views far more positive than those recorded in 1990s and late 2000s

July 11, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Prior to the recent verdict in the Casey Anthony trial, Americans had middling confidence in the nation's criminal justice system. Twenty-eight percent interviewed June 9-12 said they had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the system, 42% had some, and 29% very little or none.

Americans' Confidence in the U.S. Criminal Justice System

	June 9-12, 2011
	%
Great deal	13
Quite a lot	15
Some	42
Very little	27
None (vol.)	2
No opinion	1
	100%

(vol.) = Volunteered response

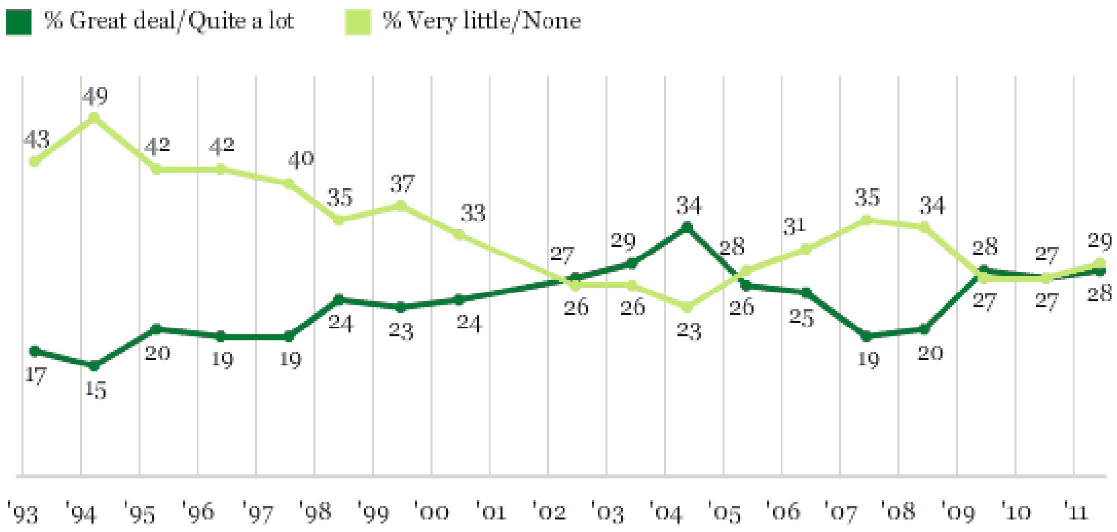
GALLUP

The criminal justice system tied newspapers for 9th place on Gallup's 2011 Confidence in Institutions measure, out of 16 institutions rated. The 28% expressing high confidence falls almost halfway between confidence in the police (56%) and Congress (12%), although it is well below the exceptionally high levels seen for the military (78%) and small business (64%).

Confidence in Criminal Justice System on High End of Trend

While 28% high confidence is not a stellar rating for the nation's justice system, it is among the more positive ratings of it Gallup has recorded since first including it on the annual Confidence in Institutions measure in 1993.

Americans' Confidence in the U.S. Criminal Justice System, 1993-2011



% "Some" not shown

GALLUP

From 1993 through 1997, more than twice as many Americans expressed little or no confidence as expressed high confidence in the criminal justice system. This coincided with negative publicity for the police and the justice system stemming from the 1991 Rodney King beating and the acquittal of four officers in that case in 1992; broader criticism of racial profiling during this period; and, subsequently, Americans' mostly negative reactions to the 1995 "not guilty" verdict in the O.J. Simpson trial.

Public attitudes toward the criminal justice system improved in 1998 and continued to do so through 2004, when high confidence peaked at 34%. Confidence then descended from 2005 through 2007 -- apparently part of a broader decline in public confidence associated with deteriorating satisfaction with President George W. Bush and the direction of the country. It partially rebounded in 2009, coinciding with improved ratings of government under President Barack Obama. Since then, as many Americans have had high confidence as low confidence in the system.

Slight Differences in Confidence by Age, Race, Education, and Partisanship

Gallup finds relatively slight differences among most U.S. subgroups' views toward the criminal justice system, as the plurality of almost all groups express "some" confidence in it. However, young adults are substantially more likely to have high confidence in the system than low confidence, distinguishing them from older adults. Additionally, Republicans and Democrats are more likely to have high than low confidence, while independents tilt toward low confidence.

Confidence in the U.S. Criminal Justice System -- Among Subgroups

	Great deal/ Quite a lot	Some	Very little/ None	Net positive
	%	%	%	
National adults	28	42	29	-1
Men	30	40	30	0
Women	26	44	29	-3
White	28	44	27	1
Nonwhite	28	38	32	-4
18 to 34 years	41	35	22	19
35 to 54 years	21	46	32	-11
55 and older	24	44	31	-7
College graduate/Postgraduate	29	48	23	6
Some college	26	41	33	-7
High school or less	28	39	31	-3
Republicans	32	45	22	10
Independents	21	43	34	-13
Democrats	33	40	27	6

June 9-12, 2011

GALLUP

Bottom Line

Americans' confidence in the U.S. criminal justice system is muted, with as many Americans expressing low confidence as high confidence. This puts the system in about the middle of the various institutions rated this year. However, the 28% now expressing a great deal or quite a lot of confidence is on the high end of the historical range.

Gallup's trends also suggest that specific matters pertaining to the police and high-profile legal cases may have influenced Americans' views toward the criminal justice system in the past. Given that, the "not guilty" verdict in the Anthony trial theoretically could do the same. Indeed, 64% of Americans think the murder charges against Casey Anthony are either definitely (20%) or probably (44%) true, according to a July 6 *USA Today*/Gallup poll. However, with only 16% of Americans following the case "very closely" and 18% describing their reaction to the verdict as "angry," any effect on views of the criminal justice system is likely to be small.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted June 9-12, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, 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.

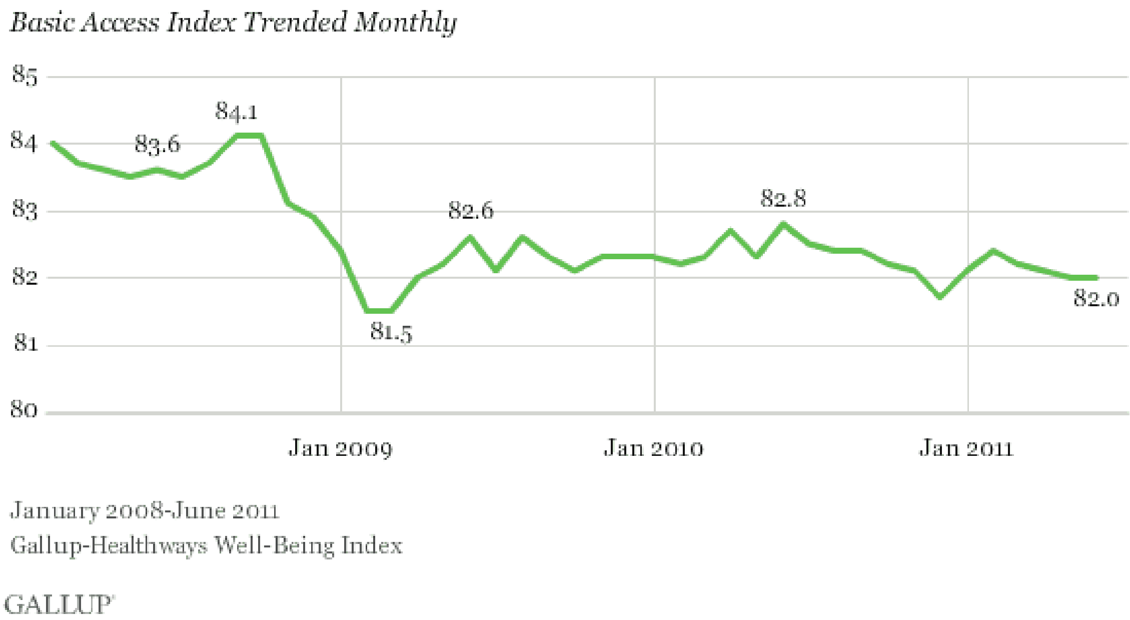
Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148433/Americans-Express-Mixed-Confidence-Criminal-Justice-System.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

180-43-22. Recession Persists in Terms of Americans' Access to Basic Needs

Fewer report health insurance, having a personal doctor, and dentist visits than in 2008

July 15, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- More Americans continue to struggle to access basic necessities than before the 2008 economic crisis. The U.S. earned a Basic Access Index score of 82.0 in June -- about on par with the low point of 81.5 recorded in February and March of 2009 -- and down compared with 83.6 measured in June 2008.



The current score is more than two points lower than the highest measured point of 84.1 in October 2008, revealing that nearly 5 million fewer Americans today have access to the basic necessities of life compared to that time.

These findings are based on approximately 29,000 interviews conducted each month from January 2008 through June 2011 with American adults as a part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. The Basic Access Index is a 13-item measure of Americans' access to basic necessities, ranging from food and shelter to clean water and healthcare.

Fewer Americans Have Health Insurance or a Personal Doctor

Americans' access to health insurance declined the most among the items included in the Basic Access Index. In June 2011, 82.1% reported having health insurance, continuing a steady decline from 85.4% in June 2008. Fewer Americans also report having a personal doctor and visiting the dentist at least once in the last 12 months. "Enough money to buy food at all times in the last 12 months" is also trending lower compared to 2008 and 2009.

Greatest Declines Among Major Basic Needs

	June 2008	June 2009	June 2010	June 2011	Change Since 2008
Basic Access Index	83.6	82.6	82.8	82.0	-1.6
Has health insurance coverage	85.4	83.8	83.4	82.1	-3.3
Has a personal doctor	80.2	81.2	81.0	78.1	-2.1
Visited a dentist in the last 12 months	65.3	65.7	65.0	64.1	-1.2
Enough money to buy food at all times last 12 months	82.4	82.6	82.3	81.6	-0.8

June 2008-June 2011
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP

Key Improvement Amid Tough Times: Access to Fresh, Affordable Produce

Even as Americans continue to struggle with access to certain basic needs post-recession, their access to others has improved or remained the same. More Americans reported easy access to fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables in June than did in June 2008, although fewer than in 2009 and 2010. This represents the only substantial improvement among the Basic Access Index metrics during this period. For results on the remaining items, see page 2.

% With Easy Access to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

	June 2008	June 2009	June 2010	June 2011	Change Since 2008
Easy to get affordable fresh fruits and vegetables	88.5	92.4	92.8	91.1	2.6

June 2008-June 2011
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP

Bottom Line

The continued lack of recovery in the Basic Access Index metrics overall in 2011 shows that Americans are still lagging behind prior years in terms of their access to the basic necessities that foster a healthy, productive life. While Gallup has documented the decline in access to health insurance in recent years, important elements of healthcare including Americans' ability to maintain a personal doctor and visit the dentist have also been casualties of the economic recession. This means millions fewer American adults have those basic needs met now than did before the financial crisis, despite modest improvements found in some areas. These results lend further evidence to the sluggishness of the current economic recovery, and underscore in real terms the health impact of the recession on the lives of American adults.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index surveys each day, with a random sample of at least 1,000 adults, or roughly 30,000 adults per month, 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 ±0.6 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 daily sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 800 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

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

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

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148520/Recession-Persists-Terms-Americans-Access-Basic-Needs.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA%20-%20Wellbeing

---

180-43-23. The Debt Ceiling Showdown – Where the Public Stands

The nation is headed toward a possible government default on Aug. 2 if no agreement is reached to raise the debt ceiling. The public is still coming to grips with this complex issue, but recent Pew Research Center surveys show that opinions are beginning to take shape:

The Bottom Line. The public has grown more concerned recently that failing to raise the debt limit would force the government into default and hurt the economy. However, fewer than half of Americans (42%) say their greater concern is over not raising the debt limit; about as many (47%) say their greater concern is that raising the debt limit would lead to more government spending, according to this week's survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and *The Washington Post*. The deep partisan divisions evident in Washington's negotiations over the debt ceiling are reflected in the survey's results – most Republicans (66%) are more concerned by the consequences of increasing the debt limit; most Democrats (54%) are more worried by the fallout from not raising it.

No Panic – Yet. The debt crisis has been the dominant issue in Washington for weeks, but public interest in this story has been relatively modest. In this week's News Interest Index survey, just 25% said they are tracking the debt talks very closely, a figure that has changed little in recent weeks. Interest is likely to grow as the Aug. 2 deadline approaches, however. During the budget showdown in the spring, public attentiveness ramped up dramatically when a last-minute compromise narrowly averted a government shutdown.

A Complicated Issue. The Pew Research Center/*Washington Post* survey found that just 18% feel they understand this issue very well, while another 37% say they understand it fairly well. That is relatively low, particularly considering that in the fall of 2008, far more (75%) said they understood the problems in financial and housing markets very or fairly well, which involved terms like troubled assets, underwater mortgages and "too big to fail."

Balancing Priorities. Few disagree that the budget deficit is an urgent problem –in late May, 74% said it is a major problem the country must address now. But when asked which economic issue worried them most, more cited the job situation than the budget deficit (by 38% to 28%). Pew Research's annual policy priorities survey in January showed that the percentage saying that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority jumped from 53% in 2009 to 64% this year. But the deficit ranked far lower than the economy (87%) and jobs (84%) on the public's 2011 agenda.

Don't Cut Benefits. For the public, reducing the deficit is a much lower priority than preserving the benefits provided by Social Security and Medicare: In mid-June, 60% said it was more important to keep these benefits as they are, while just 32% said it was more important to reduce the deficit. Less affluent Republicans view preserving entitlements as more important, while Republicans with higher incomes prioritize deficit reduction. Democrats across income categories say it is more important to keep benefits as they are.

Taxes in the Mix. Americans like lower taxes; when President Obama and congressional Republicans agreed on an extension of the Bush-era tax cuts in December, 60% of the public approved of the deal. But most also acknowledge that the best way to reduce the deficit is through a combination of cuts in major programs and tax increases. And a large majority (66%) approves of raising taxes on incomes of $250,000 or more to reduce the debt.

No Compromise on 'Compromise.' It may seem like diplomats arguing over the shape of the conference table, but Republicans and Democrats cannot even agree about whether compromise is a good thing. During the budget impasse in April, large majorities of liberal Democrats and conservative and moderate Democrats favored compromise, even if it resulted in a budget they disagreed with. But Republicans were divided: Most Tea Party Republicans wanted lawmakers to stand on principle, even if it resulted in a government shutdown; other Republicans favored compromise.

Source:http://people-press.org/2011/07/14/the-debt-ceiling-showdown-%E2%80%93-where-the-public-stands/

180-43-24. Public Now Divided on Debt Limit Debate

Default Concerns Rise among Independents

July 11, 2011

As the debate over the nation's debt and deficit continues, the public has grown more concerned that failing to raise the debt limit would force the government into default and hurt the economy. Despite this change, however, about as many Americans are concerned by the consequences of raising the nation's debt limit as by the fallout from not doing so.

Currently, 47% say their greater concern is that raising the debt limit would lead to higher government spending and make the national debt bigger, while 42% say their greater concern is that not raising the limit would force the government into default and hurt the economy. This represents a change in the balance of opinion since May, when more expressed concern over raising the debt limit (48%) than said their greater concern was the prospect of a government default (35%).

Independents Now Divided in Debt Limit Concerns

Which is your greater concern?	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
July 7-10	%	%	%	%
That raising debt limit would lead to more spending and bigger debt	47	66	35	46
That not raising it would force a default and hurt the economy	42	27	54	45
Don't know	11	7	10	10
	100	100	100	100
May 19-22				
That raising debt limit would lead to more spending and bigger debt	48	60	38	49
That not raising it would force a default and hurt the economy	35	25	48	34
Don't know	17	14	13	17
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST July 7-10, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and *The Washington Post*, conducted July 7-10 among 1,007 adults, finds that independents are now evenly divided in concerns over the debt limit: 46% say their greater concern is that raising the limit would lead to higher government spending while 45% say their bigger concern is that not raising the limit will lead to a default. Two months ago, independents by 49% to 34% expressed more concern over raising the debt limit.

Opinions have changed little among Republicans and Democrats. In the new survey, 66% of Republicans say their greater concern is that raising the debt limit would lead to more government spending; 54% of Democrats say their greater concern is that not raising the limit would lead to a government default.

Among Republicans and Republican leaners, concern that raising the debt limit would lead to increased government spending is particularly pronounced among those who agree with the Tea Party. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Republicans and GOP leaners who agree with the Tea Party say their bigger concern is that raising the debt limit would result in more spending; that compares with 58% of Republicans and leaners who do not agree with the movement.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2055/debt-limit-ceiling-deficit-federal-spending

180-43-25. Attention to Debt Ceiling Debate Doesn't Affect Policy Views

Nearly 6 in 10 Americans are paying close attention to news about raising debt ceiling

July 13, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Echoing resistance to raising the nation's debt ceiling among the public at large, 53% of Americans who say they are following the issue very closely in the news want their member of Congress to vote against raising the debt limit, while 37% urge a vote in favor.

Preferences for Debt Ceiling Vote, by Attention Paid to News About Debt Ceiling

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

	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not closely
	%	%	%
Vote in favor	37	28	9
Vote against	53	48	31
No opinion	9	24	59

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

This 16-percentage-point margin against raising the debt limit among the most attentive Americans is similar to the 20-point margin among those following the matter somewhat closely, 48% vs. 28%. Those not following the issue closely are also more likely to want their member of Congress to vote against raising the debt limit than for it; however, the majority, 59%, have no opinion.

Similarly, the Americans most attentive to the debt ceiling issue are no more anxious about the potential negative economic fallout should the debt ceiling not be raised than are those paying less attention to the issue. The majority of those following the issue very closely say they are more worried that the government would raise the debt ceiling without plans for major cuts in future spending than they are that not raising the debt ceiling would result in a major economic crisis.

Americans' Greater Debt-Ceiling Related Concern, by Attention Paid to News About Debt Ceiling

	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not closely
	%	%	%
Economic crisis would result if debt ceiling not raised	34	39	26
Raise debt ceiling without plans for major spending cuts	56	46	52
No opinion	10	14	22

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

Attention Paid to Debt Ceiling Debate Is About Average for a News Event

Nearly 6 in 10 Americans, 58%, say they are following the news about discussions to raise the U.S. debt limit either very or somewhat closely. This approximates the 57% paying close attention in May and is about average for the more than 200 news stories Gallup has rated since 1991. Republicans and Democrats are paying similar levels of attention, while independents are tuned in slightly less closely.

Much greater differences are seen by age, with 76% of seniors and 68% of those aged 50 to 64 paying close attention to the debt ceiling story, compared with 59% of those 30 to 49 and 29% of those 18 to 29. This is typical for age patterns regarding attention to the news.

Attention Paid to News About Raising U.S. Debt Ceiling

How closely are you following the news about discussions to raise the U.S. debt ceiling, the maximum amount of money the U.S. government can borrow by law -- very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too closely	Not at all
	%	%	%	%
National adults	22	36	24	18
Republicans	23	40	22	15
Independents	22	31	25	22
Democrats	21	40	24	15
18 to 29 years	3	26	35	36
30 to 49 years	22	37	23	18
50 to 64 years	28	40	21	11
65 and older	36	40	14	10

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

Bottom Line

Americans' general opposition to raising the nation's debt ceiling limit -- at least in the abstract -- does not primarily reflect low public awareness of the president's warnings about the perils of not raising it. In fact, the majority of Americans who say they are following the issue very closely oppose it, and are more concerned about the impact that raising the debt limit would have on future U.S. deficit spending than the possibility of an economic crisis if it is not raised.

In trying to win more public support for raising the debt ceiling, President Obama appealed to seniors Tuesday, warning that failure to do so could put a freeze on Social Security checks as soon as Aug. 3.Obama's approval rating among seniors is currently at 39%, the lowest of any age group. However, seniors are also the age group paying closest attention to the deficit issue and might be persuaded to rethink their position on the debt ceiling (currently 26% are in favor of raising it and 48% opposed) if they believe their retirement income is at risk.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, with a random sample of 1,016 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.

Source: http://www.gallup.com/poll/148463/Attention-Debt-Ceiling-Debate-Affect-Policy-Views.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

180-43-26. U.S. Debt Ceiling Increase Remains Unpopular With Americans

More are concerned about higher level of spending than risk of economic crisis

July 12, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Despite agreement among leaders of both sides of the political aisle in Washington that raising the U.S. debt ceiling is necessary, more Americans want their member of Congress to vote against such a bill than for it, 42% vs. 22%, while one-third are unsure. This 20-percentage-point edge in opposition to raising the debt ceiling in Gallup's July 7-10 poll is slightly less than the 28-point lead (47% vs. 19%) seen in May.

Americans' Reactions to Raising U.S. Debt Ceiling

From what you know or have read about the discussion of raising the debt ceiling, would you want your member of Congress to -- [vote in favor of raising the debt ceiling, vote against raising the debt ceiling] -- or don't you know enough to say?

	Vote for	Vote against	Don't know enough to say
	%	%	%
Jul 7-10, 2011	22	42	35
May 5-8, 2011	19	47	34

GALLUP

This measure reflects public opinion about raising the debt ceiling in the abstract. The question wording did not mention the rationales for or against raising the debt ceiling, nor did it explain that any such move would ultimately be a part of a broader budget bill involving spending cuts and perhaps tax increases.

Republicans are far more unified in their opposition to raising the debt ceiling (60% opposed, 11% in favor) than Democrats are in their support of it (39% in favor, 21% opposed). Independents tilt heavily against raising the debt ceiling, 46% to 18%, although 36% have no opinion.

Americans' Reactions to Raising U.S. Debt Ceiling

Trend by party ID

	Vote for	Vote against	Don't know enough to say
	%	%	%
Jul 7-10, 2011			
Republicans	11	60	29
Independents	18	46	36
Democrats	39	21	40
May 5-8, 2011			
Republicans	8	70	21
Independents	15	46	40
Democrats	33	26	40

GALLUP

Since May, Republicans' opposition to raising the debt ceiling has declined slightly, from 70% to 60% -- perhaps owing to some major business groups' recent lobbying for passage -- while independents' and Democrats' views have not changed.

Public's Fear of Runaway Spending Evident

President Barack Obama has emphasized that not raising the debt ceiling would force the U.S. to default on its debt payment obligations, leading to economic catastrophe, while Republicans have made their support for raising it contingent on a budget agreement that sharply limits future spending.

A follow-up question finds Americans more sympathetic to the Republicans' argument than Obama's. Specifically, when asked to say which is their greater concern, 51% say raising the debt ceiling without plans for major future spending cuts concerns them more, while 32% are more concerned with the risk of a major economic crisis if Congress does not take action.

Government Spending vs. Economic Fallout As Greater Debt Ceiling Concern

Which concerns you more -- [the government would not raise the debt ceiling and a major economic crisis would result (or) the government would raise the debt ceiling but without plans for major cuts in future spending]?

	Major economic crisis if ceiling not raised	Raising debt ceiling with no plan for cutting spending	No opinion
	%	%	%
National adults	32	51	17
Republicans	28	57	15
Independents	29	52	19
Democrats	41	45	14

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

Apart from the political arguments, Obama and the Republican leaders in Congress are about tied, 43% to 46%, in terms of whom the public trusts more to handle the federal budget deficit and debt ceiling issues. The partisan responses to this question are highly typical, with most Republicans and Democrats favoring their own side and independents about evenly split.

Political Leadership Americans Trust More on Federal Budget Deficit and Debt Ceiling

Who do you trust more to handle the issues concerning the federal budget deficit and the federal debt ceiling -- [President Obama (or) the Republican leaders in Congress]?

	President Obama	Republican leaders in Congress	No opinion
	%	%	%
National adults	43	46	11
Republicans	8	88	4
Independents	39	43	18
Democrats	83	11	7

July 7-10, 2011

GALLUP

Bottom Line

Despite intense lobbying of Congress by President Obama, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and others in the administration about the economic urgency for raising the nation's debt limit, fewer than one in four Americans favor the general idea of raising it. Also, Americans are significantly more concerned about the budgetary risk of giving the government a new license to spend than they are about the potential economic consequences that would result from not raising the debt limit. Both of these findings put Americans more on congressional

Republicans' side of the debate than Obama's -- at least in terms of political leverage as the two sides negotiate a deal. Nevertheless, Americans place Obama and the Republicans in Congress at parity in their preferences for whom they trust more to handle the federal budget deficit and debt ceiling, similar to the close division in U.S. partisanship, more generally.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted July 7-10, 2011, with a random sample of 1,016 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.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148454/Debt-Ceiling-Increase-Remains-Unpopular-Americans.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

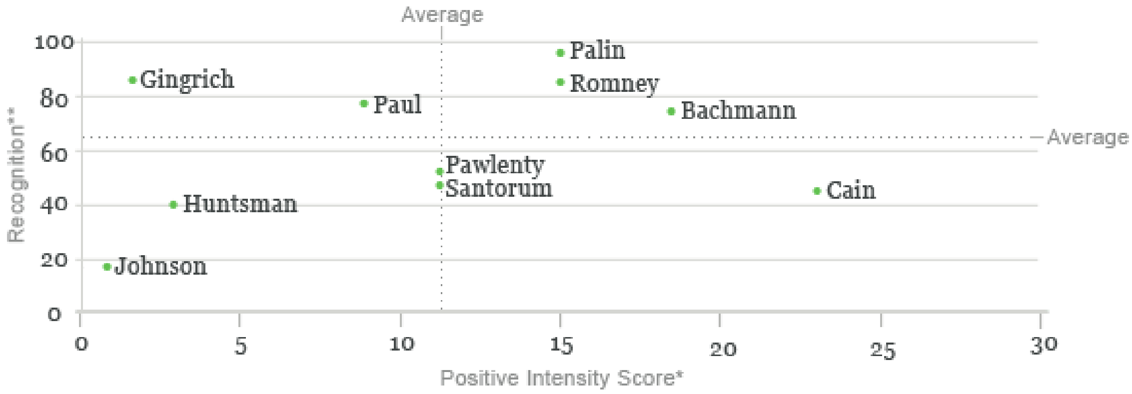
180-43-27. Sarah Palin Evokes Strong Emotions Among Republicans

Her 25% strongly favorable rating is the highest of any candidate tested

July 12, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Sarah Palin -- who has not yet announced whether she will run for president -- remains a formidable presence among Republicans nationwide. She is almost universally recognized, and her current Positive Intensity Score ties her with Mitt Romney, trailing only Herman Cain and Michele Bachmann.

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

June 27-July 10, 2011

GALLUP

A *Newsweek* cover story on the former Alaska governor and 2008 vice presidential candidate quoted Palin as saying, "I believe that I can win a national election," and that she is still thinking about running.

Palin's high 95% name recognition -- the highest of any candidate or potential candidate Gallup is tracking -- is one of her major political attributes. Her Positive Intensity Score, currently 15, has been in the 13 to 19 range throughout the year so far. This puts her behind Cain and Bachmann, but in roughly the same range as Romney. At the same time, Palin generates stronger emotions -- both positive and negative -- than Romney does. His Positive Intensity Score is based on the difference between the 18% of those who recognize him who have a strongly favorable opinion and the 3% who have a strongly unfavorable opinion. A significantly higher 25% of Republicans who recognize Palin have a strongly favorable opinion of her and a higher 9% have a strongly unfavorable opinion (Palin's net Positive Intensity Score is 15 because of rounding when precise numbers are calculated).

Palin's 25% strongly favorable rating is the highest of any candidate tested in the latest two-week average, from June 27-July 10, one percentage point ahead of Cain's 24% and five points ahead of Bachmann's 20%.

Potential Republican Candidates: Strongly Favorable and Strongly Unfavorable Opinions, Among Those Who Recognize Them

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	Strongly favorable	Strongly unfavorable
	%	%
Palin	25	9
Cain	24	0
Bachmann	20	2
Romney	18	3
Santorum	12	1
Pawlenty	12	1
Paul	12	3
Gingrich	11	9
Huntsman	7	3
Johnson	3	2

June 27-July 10, 2011

GALLUP

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich matches Palin, with 9% expressing strongly unfavorable opinions, but, by contrast, strongly favorable opinions of him are only 11%, giving him a net Positive Intensity Score of 2 -- among the lowest of any candidate tracked. No other candidates have more than 3% expressing strongly unfavorable views of them.

Bottom Line

The GOP field to some degree is in a holding pattern, with candidates such as Palin, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani sitting on the sidelines while pondering their decisions on whether to officially get into the race. If any or all of these politicians do decide to run, the nature of Republicans' sentiments about the candidates and whom they favor for their party's nomination may change. At the moment, Cain and Bachmann generate the highest levels of enthusiasm among rank-and-file Republicans who recognize them, with Palin and Romney trailing them. Of the remaining announced candidates, Tim Pawlenty, Rick Santorum, and Ron Paul do best, while Jon Huntsman, Gingrich, and Gary Johnson are lagging behind in terms of Positive Intensity.

Track every angle of the presidential race on Gallup.com's Election 2012 page.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking from June 27-July 10, 2011, with random samples of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Questions asking about the 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.

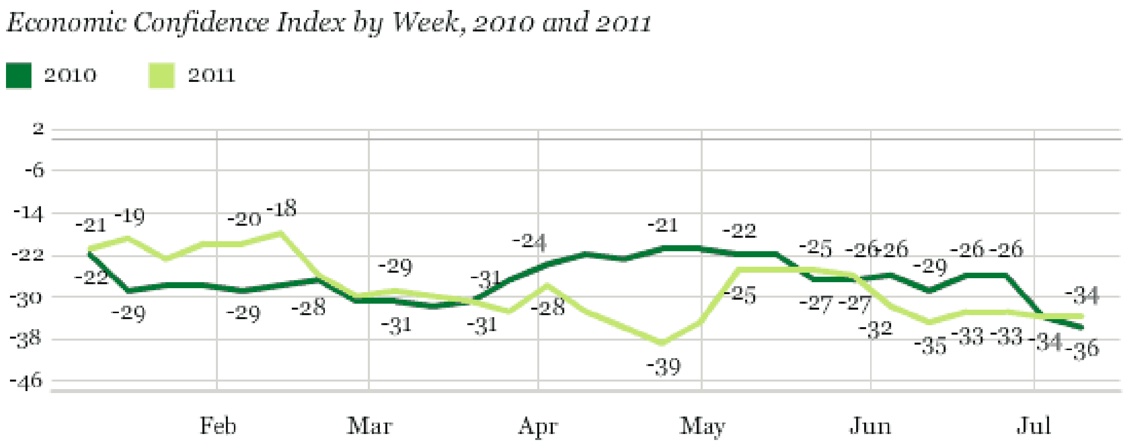
Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148451/Sarah-Palin-Evokes-Strong-Emotions-Republicans.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20Politics%20-%20USA

180-43-28. No Improvement in U.S. Economic Confidence in July

Weekly economic confidence is at -34 -- essentially the same as over the prior four weeks

July 12, 2011

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans' economic confidence remains near its 2011 low, averaging -34 in the week ending July 10. Gallup's Economic Confidence Index has not shown any improvement in the last five weeks after a decline in early June. Last year at this time, the Index was -36, suggesting there has been no year-over-year improvement.



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; June 5, 12, 19, and 26; and July 3 and 10. 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; June 6, 13, 20, and 27; and July 4 and 11.

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

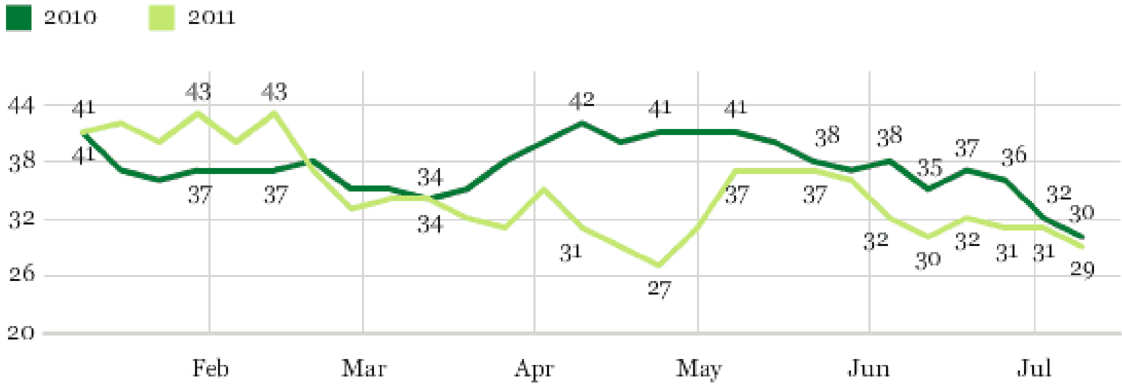
U.S. economic confidence was somewhat higher in the first six weeks of this year, but declined from mid-February through the end of April. Confidence improved in May -- likely in response to the news of Osama bin Laden's death in a U.S. military raid -- before dropping back near the lows for the year during June and early July.

Gallup's Economic Confidence Index combines two measures: one assessing Americans' views about whether the U.S. economy is "getting better" or "getting worse," and the second involving Americans' ratings of current economic conditions as "excellent," "good," "only fair," or "poor." Both ratings have been near their 2011 lows in June and July.

Percentage "Getting Better" Remains Low

In the week ending July 10, 29% of Americans said the U.S. economy is "getting better" -- on par with what Gallup measured throughout the prior four weeks and down from 37% during most of May. The index followed essentially the same pattern in 2010, leaving almost two-thirds of Americans in both years who say the U.S. economy is getting worse.

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; June 5, 12, 19, and 26; and July 3 and 10. 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; June 6, 13, 20, and 27; and July 4 and 11.

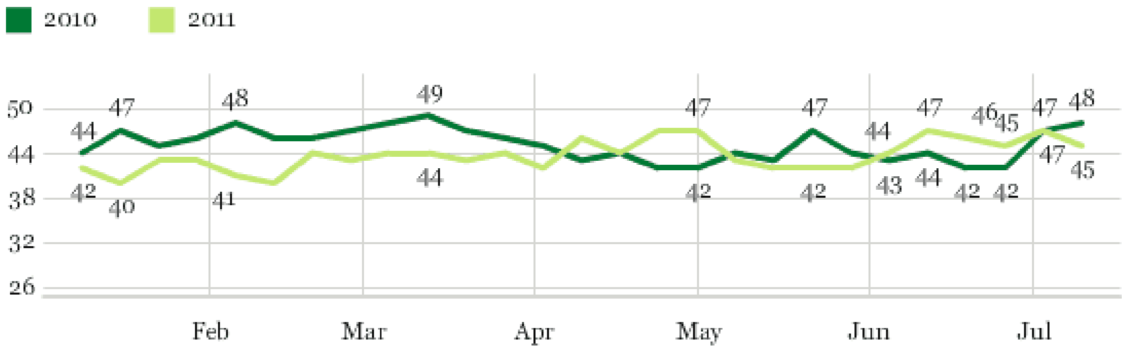
Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

Percentage Rating the Economy "Poor" Unchanged

Forty-five percent of Americans rated current economic conditions "poor" in the week ending July 10 -- about the same as in the previous five weeks. This roughly parallels the deteriorated situation of early July 2010.

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; June 5, 12, 19, and 26; and July 3 and 10. 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; June 6, 13, 20, and 27; and July 4 and 11.

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

Implications

Over the past several weeks, Americans have increasingly recognized the economic slowdown in the U.S., and Gallup's economic confidence scores show this: they are near their lows for the year. The flatness of the scores does not seem to reflect the surge on Wall Street at the end of June or the overall decline in gas prices since mid-May. By the same token, Gallup's Daily averages do not yet reflect any reaction to Friday's negative jobs report from the U.S. government.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke's testimony this week before the House and the Senate might help improve Americans' confidence in the economy. A debt ceiling agreement between the president and congressional leaders could also help improve economic perceptions.

Regardless, the current low level of economic confidence suggests something positive needs to happen if the economy is going to recover in the second half. Another decline in confidence from these levels might lead to just the opposite, creating a "soft patch" that may not be transitory.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted on a weekly basis in 2011 to the week ending July 10 and in 2010 to the week ending July 11. For the week ending July 10, 2011, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, interviews were conducted with a random sample of 3,005 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/148448/No-Improvement-Economic-Confidence-July.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Business%20-%20Northern%20America%20-%20USA

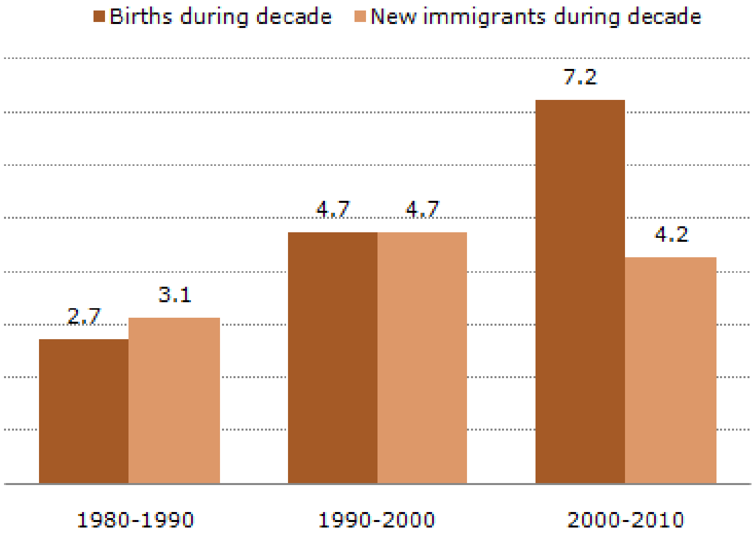
180-43-29. The Mexican-American Boom: Births Overtake Immigration

July 14, 2011

Figure 1

Mexican-American Population Growth, 1980-2010

(millions)



Note: Deaths are not included in the figure.

Source: For 2000-2010, Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of March 2010 and March 2000 Current Population Surveys adjusted for omissions. For 1980-1990 and 1990-2000, Pew Hispanic Center tabulations based on 1980 to 2000 Census Integrated Public Use Micro Samples (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Births have overtaken immigration as the main driver of the dynamic growth in the U.S. Hispanic population. This new trend is especially evident among the largest of all Hispanic groups -- Mexican-Americans,[1] according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

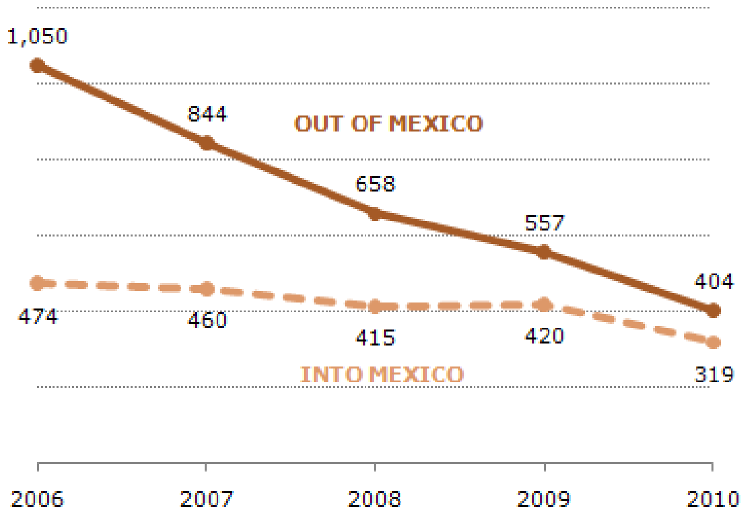
In the decade from 2000 to 2010, the Mexican-American population grew by 7.2 million as a result of births and 4.2 million as a result of new immigrant arrivals. This is a change from the previous two decades when the number of new immigrants either matched or exceeded the number of births.

The current surge in births among Mexican-Americans is largely attributable to the immigration wave that has brought more than 10 million immigrants to the United States from Mexico since 1970. Between 2006 and 2010 alone, more than half (53%) of all Mexican-American births were to Mexican immigrant parents. As a group, these immigrants are more likely than U.S.-born Americans to be in their prime child-bearing years. They also have much higher fertility.

Figure 2

Migration of Mexicans Into and Out of Mexico, Mexican National Survey of Occupation and Employment, 2006-2010

(thousands)



Note: About 97% of Mexicans leaving Mexico go to the United States, and 93-96% of those returning come from the U.S. Figures reported are for 12-month periods ending in November.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo (ENOE) published by Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), March 17, 2011

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Meanwhile, the number of new immigrant arrivals from Mexico has fallen off steeply in recent years. According to a Pew Hispanic Center analysis of Mexican government data, the number of Mexicans annually leaving Mexico for the U.S. declined from more than one million in 2006 to 404,000 in 2010-a 60% reduction.[2] This is likely a result of recent developments in both the U.S. and Mexico. On the U.S. side, declining job opportunities and increased border enforcement (Passel and Cohn, 2009) may have made the U.S. less attractive to potential Mexican immigrants. And in Mexico, recent strong economic growth may have reduced the "push" factors that often lead Mexicans to emigrate to the U.S.

As a result, there were fewer new immigrant arrivals to the U.S. from Mexico in the 2000s (4.2 million) than in the 1990s (4.7 million). However, the Mexican-American population continued to grow rapidly, with births accounting for 63% of the 11.2 million increase from 2000 to 2010.[3]

At 31.8 million in 2010, Mexican-Americans comprise 63% of the U.S. Hispanic population and 10% of the total U.S. population (Ennis, Ríos-Vargas and Albert, 2011). According to Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the March 2010 U.S. Current Population Survey, 39% of Mexican-Americans-or 12.4 million-are immigrants.[4] With the exception of Russia, no other country in the world has as many immigrants from all countries as the U.S. has from Mexico alone.[5] Nor does any country in the world have as many citizens living abroad as does Mexico. According to the World Bank (2011), more than 10% of Mexico's native-born population lives elsewhere, with the vast majority (97%) of these expatriates living in the United States.

Overall, the Hispanic population of the United States grew from 35.3 million in 2000 to 50.5 million in 2010, accounting for more than half of the nation's overall population growth during that decade (Passel, Cohn and Lopez, 2011). Some 58% of this Hispanic population increase came from births rather than the arrival of new immigrants. However, for many non-Mexican-origin Hispanic groups in the U.S., births accounted for less than half of their population growth in the past decade. For example, from 2000 to 2010, births accounted for just 38% of the growth of the Cuban-American population and just 39% of the growth of the population of U.S. Hispanics of Central or South American origin.

Hispanics now comprise 16.3% of the total U.S. population. This share is projected to rise to 29% by the middle of this century, with the bulk of the future increase driven by births, many the descendents of today's immigration wave, rather than the arrival of new immigrants. (Passel and Cohn, 2008).

---

1 The term "Mexican-American" refers to Hispanics who were born in Mexico or U.S.-born Hispanics who trace their ancestry to Mexico.

2 These figures reflect Mexican emigration to all countries, not just the United States. However, 97% of Mexican emigrants migrate to the U.S. For details on methodology and the Mexican government's Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo (ENOE), see Passel and Cohn (2009).

3 The 11.2 million increase reflects the net change in births, deaths and net migration of the Mexican-American population in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010. It is different from the 11.4 million shown in Figure 1. That figure reflects population changes due to births (7.2 million) and net migration (4.2 million) only, excluding deaths.

4 This estimate has been adjusted for undercount.

5 Alone, the number of Mexican immigrants in the U.S. is larger than the immigrant population in any other country in the world, with the exception of the Russian Federation (World Bank, 2011). However, while Russia hosts 12 million immigrants, many are natives of countries that were part of the former Soviet Union.

Source:http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2058/-immigration-mexican-immigrants-mexican-american-birth-rate

180-43-30. Majority Of Middle Market Companies View Health Insurance Brokers And Agents As Valued Partners

July 14th, 2011

Opportunities for Brokers Evident as Health Reform Takes Shape

New York, NY - July 14, 2011 - The importance of health insurance brokers and agents over the next three years -- especially those who specialize in employee health benefits -- will be increasing sharply in the eyes of middle market decision makers. This is based on a recent survey, conducted by TNS, a world leader in market information.

According to the study, almost two-thirds (63%) of companies surveyed view their employee health insurance broker or agent as a valued partner with 33% describing them as a trusted advisor. "Our results indicate a much stronger role for brokers than one might have expected," said William Bruno, Vice President at TNS. "One possible explanation is they fill a vital role in helping companies control the rising employee benefit costs. This is a key area that almost all (92%) of the companies surveyed identified as a concern - and one that for the vast majority (77%), say has increased in importance over the past 12 months" said Bruno. "On top of this, many companies have reduced their staffing in the human resources or benefits areas over the past two years, and brokers are helping to fill this void."

While health reform may make it easier for companies to find benefit plans at more competitive prices in 2014, most companies surveyed will be relying more heavily on their broker to help them navigate through the choices offered under reform. This is evidenced by 75% of companies who think their health insurance broker will play a more important role in their relationship over the next three years.

"One of the most important insights that came from our research highlights the vast opportunity for brokers and agents to stay well ahead of the curve on detailed knowledge of health reform and related employee health care options that best fit with their clients' needs. For health insurers, it will be important to recognize the significant role that brokers and agents may continue to play well into the future," said Bruno.

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.

DISCOVER - A changing world: New territories, new media, new opportunities. TNS is part of Kantar, one of the world's largest insight, information and consultancy networks.

Please visit **www.tns-us.com** for more information.

About Kantar

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

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

---

180-43-31. Five Banks Gain Share Among Affluent Households

July 12th, 2011

New York, NY - July 12, 2011 - In a robust, large-scale study of 4,600 affluent consumers, TNS found five banks that have achieved material organic growth in their affluent customer base over the past two years. All of these had superior performance in terms of acquiring and retaining affluent customers.

1. Bank of America
2. Chase Bank
3. Capital One Bank

4. TD Bank
5. Key Bank

The study, "Banking the Affluent Consumer," targeted households with $100,000 or more in investable assets. This segment controls over 90% of all personal financial wealth in the U.S.

The study also found that CDs, Savings, and Money Market Deposit Accounts were the products most commonly opened by affluent households over the past year. These households are twice as likely as consumers at large to have acquired new IRA/KEOGHs accounts or Mutual Funds in the past year. They are less likely to have taken out new installment loans. Credit unions lost market share among the affluent in the 2009-2010 period.

"The dynamics of customer retention and share of wallet growth are materially different," said Joe Hagan, Senior Vice President of multi-client programs at TNS. "Despite being relatively unimportant to customer retention, effective management of customer relationships, e.g., showing customers that you know them and their history with you, and rewarding their loyalty, is critically important to growing share of wallet. Yet affluent customers tend to give their banks low marks in these areas."

###

About TNS

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

The Kantar Group

The Kantar Group is one of the world's largest research, insight and consultancy networks. By uniting the diverse talents of more than 20 specialist companies - including the recently-acquired TNS - the group aims to become the pre-eminent provider of compelling and actionable insights for the global business community. Its 26,500 employees work across 80 countries and across the whole spectrum of research and consultancy disciplines, enabling the group to offer clients business insights at each and every point of the consumer cycle. The group's services are employed by over half of the Fortune Top 500 companies. The Kantar Group is a wholly-owned subsidiary of WPP Group plc. For further information, please visit **www.kantar.com**

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

---

180-43-32. Obama Gains Five Points, But Remains Below 50% Mark in U.S.

(07/12/11) -

Only about one-in-five Americans provide a positive assessment of the U.S. Congress.

As discussions about the debt ceiling intensify, the approval rating for U.S. President Barack Obama has experienced a jump, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,001 American adults, 48 per cent of respondents (+3 since June) approve of the way Obama is handling his duties, while 45 per cent (-4) disapprove.

The level of strong approval for the U.S. President trails the level of strong disapproval by a 2-to-1 margin (15% to 29%).

Obama's rating surpasses the 50 per cent mark in the Midwest (54%) and the Northeast (52%).

The approval rating for the U.S. Congress stands at 18 per cent this month (unchanged), while 73 per cent of respondents (+2) appear dissatisfied with its actions (-1).

The level of strong approval for federal lawmakers is four per cent, while 41 per cent of Americans strongly disapprove.

The worst rating for Congress is in the South, where only 15 per cent of respondents approve of its performance.

Analysis

July is now the second-best month for Obama's rating in 2011, after the nine-point gain Obama showed in May 2011—shortly after the announcement of Osama bin Laden's death.

The approval rating for Congress has been mostly steady throughout the year, and has never reached the 25 per cent mark.

Methodology: From July 8 to July 10, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,001 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Source:http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/43956/obama-gains-five-points-but-remains-below-50-mark-in-u-s/

180-43-33. Seven-in-Ten Canadians Want to Directly Elect Their Senators

(07/12/11) -

Animosity towards the upper house is highest in Quebec, where 43 per cent of respondents think Canada does not need a Senate.

The views of Canadians on the Senate have remained consistent over the past two years, with a clear majority of respondents calling for the chance to elect the members of the Red Chamber, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,000 Canadians, two-in-five respondents (40%, -4 since November 2010) believe Canada needs a Senate, but want Canadians to be allowed to take part in the process to choose senators. More than a third of Canadians (36%, +8) think the country does not need a Senate, and would prefer to have all legislation reviewed and authorized by the House of Commons.

As was the case last year, only one-in-twenty Canadians (5%) believe that Canada needs a Senate, and that the current guidelines that call for appointed senators should not be modified.

Reforming the Senate

Across the country, seven-in-ten respondents (71%, +8) are in favour of holding a nationwide referendum to decide the future of the Senate of Canada, including three-in-four Ontarians (76%) and Albertans (75%).

The idea of allowing Canadians to directly elect their senators remains particularly popular, with 72 per cent of respondents (+3 since November 2010) endorsing this course of action. Public backing for limiting appointed Canadian senators to eight-year terms increased drastically to 70 per cent (+7).

The level of support for two other ideas is considerably lower: creating a panel distinguished Canadians to choose senators instead of the Prime Minister (39%, +4) and abolishing the Senate of Canada altogether (34%, +4).

Three-in-ten respondents (30%, -5) believe that Canadians will never be able to directly elect their senators, while 37 per cent (+6) expect this to occur in the next five years.

The Prime Minister

The governing Conservative Party controls 55 seats in the upper house, followed by the Liberal Party with 45 members and four independent senators—two of whom sit as Progressive Conservatives. A vacant seat from Newfoundland and Labrador has not been filled.

A majority of Canadians (57%, -4) continue to espouse the view that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is being hypocritical because he has appointed members to the Red Chamber despite his long-standing opposition to the Senate in its current form. Conversely, 43 per cent of respondents (+4) believe that Harper is not being hypocritical because he has appointed people who agree with his views on Senate reform.

Analysis

At first glance, the latest survey on the Senate shows that the appetite for an elected upper house has not subsided over the past year. There is also a marked increase in the proportion of respondents who are satisfied with the idea of limiting appointed senators to eight-year terms. However, most Canadians—although not as many as in November—continue to criticize the Prime Minister's appointments.

The other constant in the survey is the rejection of the status quo. Only five per cent of Canadians would be happy to keep the current Senate guidelines in place. There is a noticeable jump in the proportion of respondents who want all legislation to be handled by the House of Commons, with this sentiment being more prevalent in Quebec. However, in most other provinces, the idea of an elected Senate continues to be more palatable than abolition.

It is also important to note that the proportion of respondents who believe Canada will never have an elected Senate has dropped by five points, while the number of Canadians who think an elected Senate will be a reality by 2016 has increased by six points.

Our previous surveys on the Senate can be accessed here: February 2010 / July 2010 / November 2010

Methodology: From July 8 to July 9, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,000 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Source:http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/43954/seven-in-ten-canadians-want-to-directly-elect-their-senators/

AUSTRALASIA

180-43-34. Only 37% Of Australians Support The Gillard Government's Carbon Tax While Clear Majority Of Australians (58% - Up 5%) Do Not

Finding No. 4686 - This telephone Morgan Poll on Australian attitudes to the Carbon Tax was conducted over the last two nights July 13/14, 2011 with an Australia-wide sample of 1,262 Australians aged 14+ including 1,083 electors.: July 15, 2011

A special telephone Morgan Poll conducted over the last two nights of July 13/14, 2011 found:

- 37% (up 5%) of Australians when asked for their view of Global Warming believe *"Concerns are exaggerated,"* 46% (down 4% from June 2011) say *"If we don't act now it will be too late,"* and 14% (down 1%) say *"It is already too late."*
- 58% (up 5%) of Australian electors oppose the Gillard Government's proposed Carbon Tax, 37% (unchanged) support the Carbon Tax legislation and 5% can't say.
- If the Carbon Tax is introduced Australian electors are split on whether a future Prime Minister Tony Abbott should overturn the Carbon Tax with 48% (up 3%) supporting Abbott overturning the Carbon Tax legislation and 45% (unchanged) opposed to Abbott overturning the Carbon Tax legislation.

Following these questions the Morgan Poll asked a series of further questions about the Carbon Tax and its potential effect on Australia due to our reliance on brown coal and black coal, the effect on electricity charges and whether nuclear power is a potential solution to provide cleaner energy that does not emit carbon dioxide.

Brown coal generated Power Stations

A majority of Australian electors when told: "Victoria currently relies on brown coal to generate electricity which provides about 85% of Victoria's power. Brown coal is different from black coal as it is not safe to be exported in ships. A Carbon Tax will result in a significant increase in the cost of generating Victoria's power." And asked "Are you aware of this or not?" 52% (down 1% since June 2011) were not aware while 48% (up 1%) are aware.

A majority of electors in Victoria (74%, up2%) and Tasmania (59%, up 3%) are aware, while majorities in other States are not aware — Queensland (67%, up 3%), Western Australia (64%, down 4%), New South Wales (59%, down 1%) and South Australia (55, down 2%).

Electors were then asked "Do you think the Carbon Tax policy should or should not apply to Victoria's brown coal generated power stations?" Despite being told about the importance of brown coal to Victoria's electricity system and the implications of a Carbon Tax, 49% (up 1%) of electors believe a Carbon Tax should apply to Victoria's brown coal generated power stations, 38% (down 4%) of electors don't and 13% (up 3%) can't say. Support for the Carbon Tax applied to brown coal generating power stations is significantly higher than the 37% of Australian electors who support the Gillard Government's Carbon Tax.

More electors in every State except Queensland (44% should apply cf. 39% not apply), believe a Carbon Tax should apply to Victoria's brown coal generated power stations: New South Wales (49% should apply cf. 36% not apply); Victoria (47% cf. 45%); Western Australia (62% cf. 26%); South Australia (67% cf. 23%) and Tasmania (50% cf. 38%).

Black coal generated Power Stations

Support is even stronger (51%, unchanged) for a Carbon Tax applying to Australia's black coal generated power stations; 40% (up 1%) do not support and 9% (down 1%) can't say. Once again support for applying the Carbon Tax to black coal generating power stations is significantly higher than the 37% of Australian electors that support the Gillard Government's Carbon Tax.

A majority of electors in four States support a Carbon Tax applying to Australia's black coal generated power stations: Western Australia (61% cf. 28%); South Australia (61% cf. 32%); New South Wales (51% should apply cf. 39% not apply); and Tasmania (51% cf. 38%). More electors in Victoria (50% cf. 40%) believe a Carbon Tax should apply than should not apply while in Queensland (41% cf. 50%) believe a Carbon Tax should apply than should not apply.

Higher electricity charges

Following the question on coal generated power stations electors surveyed were asked "If the Carbon Tax means higher electricity charges, do you agree or disagree with the proposed tax on companies emitting carbon dioxide?" Australians are split on this question with 48% (up 3%) agreeing and 47% (down 3%) disagreeing while 5% (unchanged) can't say.

On a State level opposition is strongest in Queensland (57%) and Tasmania (51%). Nearly half of those in Victoria (49%) and NSW (46%) also disagree. However, more electors in South Australia (61%) and Western Australia (54%) agree with the Carbon Tax even if it means higher electricity charges.

Nuclear Power alternative

Following the question on coal generated power stations electors surveyed were asked "If the worries about carbon dioxide are a real problem. Many suggest that the cleanest energy source Australia can use is nuclear power. Do you support Australia developing nuclear power to reduce Australia's carbon dioxide emissions or not?"

A clear majority of Australian electors (58%, down 1%) do not want to develop nuclear power to reduce Australia's carbon dioxide emissions compared to only 35% (down 1%) that say we should develop nuclear power and 7% (up 2%) that can't say.

A clear majority of electors in all States except South Australia are opposed to developing nuclear power to reduce carbon dioxide emissions: Victoria (64% don't want nuclear power cf. 32% do want nuclear power); Queensland (63% cf. 31%); Tasmania (62% cf. 38%); Western Australia (59% cf. 30%) and New South Wales (54% cf. 38%);. More South Australians 52% say develop nuclear power than not, 40%.

Gary Morgan says:

"Australians remain firmly opposed to Prime Minister Julia Gillard's proposed Carbon Tax with a clear majority (58%, up 5% since June 2011) rejecting the Carbon Tax legislation whilst only 37% (unchanged) support it.

"However, if the legislation is enacted, Australians remain split on whether Tony Abbott if elected at the next Federal Election should overturn the legislation — 48% (up 3%) of electors say Abbott should overturn the Carbon Tax legislation while 45% (unchanged) say Abbott should not overturn the Carbon Tax if elected.

"The Opposition to the Carbon Tax should come as no surprise as the number of Australians worried about Global Warming continues to fall — now 46% (down 4% since June 2011 and down 21% since April 2006) Australians say about Global Warming 'If we don't act now it will be too late' — the first time this has represented only a minority of Australians.

"An increasing number of Australians now say about Global Warming that 'Concerns are exaggerated' (37%, up 5% since June 2011 and up a massive 24% since April 2006). The most consistent viewpoint about Global Warming is from those who believe 'It is already too late' (14%, down 1% from June 2011 and down 1% from April 2006) — virtually unchanged throughout the past five years.

"Despite the opposition to the Carbon Tax, Australian electors are convinced it must apply to coal — despite its importance as an energy resource — 49% (up 1%) believe the Carbon Tax should apply to Victoria's brown coal generated power stations and 51% (unchanged) believe the Carbon Tax should apply to Australia's black coal generated power stations. Only 35% (down

1%) of electors believe nuclear power is the 'clean' answer Australia could develop to reduce Australia's carbon dioxide emissions."

This telephone Morgan Poll on Australian attitudes to the Carbon Tax was conducted over the last two nights July 13/14, 2011 with an Australia-wide sample of 1,262 Australians aged 14+ including 1,083 electors.

Global Warming & Carbon Tax Questions

Question 1:

Respondents were asked: *"Which of the following is closest to your view about Global Warming?" Do you think: Concerns are exaggerated; if we don't act now it will be too late; it is already too late?"*

Of Australians (46%, down 4% since June 2010) says *'If we don't act now it will be too late'* while slightly more than a third (37%, up 5%) say *'Concerns are exaggerated'* and a further 14% (down 1%) say *'It is already too late.'*

However, there is a clear division along party lines with clear majorities of ALP supporters (70%) and Greens supporters (73%) saying *'If we don't act now it will be too late'* compared to only 28% of L-NP supporters while a majority of L-NP supporters (60%) say *'Concerns are exaggerated'* compared to only 16% of ALP supporters and just 6% of Greens supporters.

Question 2:

"Prime Minister Julia Gillard has announced the Gillard Government's Carbon Tax policy which will charge $23 per tonne of carbon with 500 companies paying the Carbon Tax. Do you support or oppose the Gillard Government's proposed Carbon Tax legislation?"

A majority of electors (58% up 5%) oppose the Gillard Government's proposed legislation to 'place a price on carbon' — including a clear majority of L-NP supporters (86%), however only 18% of ALP supporters and just 21% of Greens supporters oppose the proposed legislation.

Although only 37% (unchanged) of electors support the proposed legislation, a majority of ALP supporters (79%) and Greens supporters (76%) agree with the proposal but only 10% of L-NP supporters want this legislation.

	Electors				Federal Voting Intention				
	March 8-10, 2011	March 16/17, 2011	June 2011	July 13/14, 2011	ALP	L-NP	Greens	Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Support legislation	33	38	37	37	79	10	76	26	30
Oppose legislation	57	54	53	58	18	86	21	63	50
Can't say	10	8	10	5	3	4	3	11	20
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Question 3:

"Do you support or oppose Opposition Leader Tony Abbott's promise to overturn the Government's proposed Carbon Tax legislation if elected?"

This question related to Opposition Leader Tony Abbott's promise overturn the Gillard Government's legislation if elected. Electors were fairly evenly split with 45% (unchanged) of electors opposing Tony Abbott's promise to overturn the Gillard Government's proposed Carbon Tax legislation if elected and 48% (up 3%) supporting Abbot's promise to overturn the legislation.

However, a large majority of L-NP supporters (78%) support Abbott's promise compared to only 11% of ALP supporters and 11% of Greens supporters. A clear majority of ALP supporters (84%) and Greens supporters (85%) do not want Abbott to rescind the 'Carbon Tax' if elected compared to only 16% of L-NP supporters.

	Electors	**Support or Oppose Carbon Tax**		
	July 13/14, 2011	**Support**	**Oppose**	**Can't say**
	%	%	%	%
Support Abbott overturning tax	48	4	79	10
Oppose Abbott overturning tax	45	94	16	19
Can't say	7	2	5	71
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Global Warming & Carbon Tax Questions

Question 9:

"Victoria currently relies on brown coal to generate electricity which provides about 85% of Victoria's power. Brown coal is different from black coal as it is not safe to be exported in ships. A Carbon Tax will result in a significant increase in the cost of generating Victoria's power. Are you aware of this or not?"

	Electors		**Federal Voting Intention**				
	June 2011	**July 13/14, 2011**	**ALP**	**L-NP**	**Greens**	**Others**	**Can't say**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, aware	47	48	46	51	45	45	40
No, not aware	53	52	54	49	55	55	60
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Question 10:

“Do you think the Carbon Tax policy should or should not apply to Victoria’s brown coal generated power stations?”

	Electors		Federal Voting Intention				
	June 2011	**July 13/14, 2011**	**ALP**	**L-NP**	**Greens**	**Others**	**Can’t say**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should apply	48	49	74	31	75	50	54
Should not apply	42	38	15	56	19	34	17
Can’t say	10	13	11	13	6	16	29
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

	Electors	Electors by State					
	July 13/14, 2011	**NSW**	**VIC**	**QLD**	**WA**	**SA**	**TAS**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should apply	49	49	47	39	62	67	50
Should not apply	38	36	45	44	26	23	38
Can’t say	13	15	8	17	12	10	12
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Question 11:

“Do you think the Carbon Tax policy should or should not apply to Australia’s black coal generated power stations?”

	Electors		Federal Voting Intention				
	June 2011	**July 13/14, 2011**	**ALP**	**L-NP**	**Greens**	**Others**	**Can’t say**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should apply	51	51	80	30	80	46	49
Should not apply	39	40	12	61	14	37	30

Can't say	10	9	8	9	6	17	21
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

	Electors	Electors by State					
	July 13/14, 2011	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should apply	51	51	50	41	61	61	51
Should not apply	40	39	40	50	28	32	38
Can't say	9	10	10	9	11	7	11
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Question 12:

"If the Carbon Tax means higher electricity charges, do you agree or disagree with the proposed tax on companies emitting carbon dioxide?"

	Electors		Federal Voting Intention				
	June 2011	July 13/14, 2011	ALP	L-NP	Greens	Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	45	48	81	26	77	43	43
Disagree	50	47	17	69	19	49	39
Can't say	5	5	2	5	4	8	18
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

	Electors	Electors by State					
	July 13/14, 2011	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	48	49	48	37	54	61	49
Disagree	47	46	4	57	3	3	51

	Electors July 13/14, 2011	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
			9		7	2	
Can't say	5	5	3	6	9	7	-
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Question 13:

"If the worries about carbon dioxide are a real problem. Many suggest that the cleanest energy source Australia can use is nuclear power. Do you support Australia developing nuclear power to reduce Australia's carbon dioxide emissions or not?"

	Electors		Federal Voting Intention				
	June 2011	July 13/14, 2011	ALP	L-NP	Greens	Others	Can't say
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, develop nuclear power	36	35	28	46	19	28	16
No, don't develop nuclear power	59	58	64	47	78	68	68
Can't say	5	7	8	7	3	4	16
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

	Electors	Electors by State					
	July 13/14, 2011	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, develop nuclear power	35	38	32	31	30	52	38
No, don't develop nuclear power	58	54	64	63	59	40	62
Can't say	7	8	4	6	11	8	-
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Margin of Error

The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. 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%
500	±4.3	±3.8	±2.6	±1.9
1,000	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.5	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
2,000	±2.1	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0

Source: http://www.roymorgan.com/news/polls/2011/4686/

180-43-35. L-NP (60.5%) Record Lead Over ALP (39.5%). First Poll After Prime Minister Gillard Announces Details Of Carbon Tax

Finding No. 4684 - This telephone Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted over the last two nights – July 13/14, 2011 with an Australia-wide cross-section of Australians aged 14+ including 1,083 electors, of all electors surveyed, 3.5% did not name a party. The face-to-face Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted last weekend – July 9/10, 2011 with an Australia-wide cross-section of Australians aged 14+ including 897 electors, of all electors surveyed, 6% did not name a party.: July 15, 2011

In the first Australia-wide voting intention poll conducted since Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the details of the Carbon Tax the latest telephone Morgan Poll conducted over the last two nights, July 13/14, 2011 shows the L-NP 60.5% with a record winning lead over the ALP 39.5% - the worst Two-Party preferred voting result for Labor since the first Roy Morgan Gallup Poll conducted in May 1942.

The L-NP primary vote is 52.5%, nearly double the ALP 27.5%. Support for the minor parties shows the Greens 10.5% and Others/ Independents 9.5%.

If a Federal election were held today the L-NP would win in a landslide according to today's Morgan Poll.

The Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating is at 99.5 with 43.5% of Australians saying Australia is 'heading in the right direction,' while 44% say Australia is 'heading in the wrong direction.'

The latest **weekly Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating** for the weekend of July 9/10, 2011, was 110.5, up 2.8pts from July 2/3, 2011.

The latest face-to-face Morgan Poll (conducted last weekend July 9/10, 2011 as Julia Gillard announced details of the Carbon Tax) showed the L-NP (56%) leading the ALP (44%). The face-to-face Morgan Poll was conducted amidst extensive media coverage of the Government's compensation package with the Carbon Tax, but before the full details of the Carbon Tax were announced by Prime Minister Gillard on Sunday afternoon.

Gary Morgan says:

"The L-NP (60.5%) has stretched its lead over the ALP (39.5%) to a record only days after Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the long-awaited details of the Government's proposed Carbon Tax. The telephone Morgan Poll shows a clear gain by the L-NP since the weekend face-to-face Morgan Poll which had the L-NP (56%) cf. ALP (44%).

"The boost the Gillard Government received in the run-up to the Carbon Tax announcement on Sunday afternoon, as shown by last week's face-to-face Morgan Poll, proved short-lived after the full details of the Carbon Tax were released. Despite a significant compensation package including raising the tax-free income threshold to $18,000pa, only 37% of Australian electors (unchanged since June 2011)now support the Gillard Government's proposed Carbon Tax reforms while a clear majority of Australian electors (58%, up 5% since June 2011) remain opposed.

"Clearly the Gillard Government faces a challenging few months as it attempts 'to sell' the benefits of the Carbon Tax and associated compensation while Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and the L-NP remain implacably opposed to the legislation."

This telephone Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted over the last two nights — July 13/14, 2011 with an Australia-wide cross-section of Australians aged 14+ including 1,083 electors, of all electors surveyed, 3.5% did not name a party. The face-to-face Morgan Poll on Federal voting intention was conducted last weekend — July 9/10, 2011 with an Australia-wide cross-section of Australians aged 14+ including 897 electors, of all electors surveyed, 6% did not name a party.

*Telephone Morgan Polls are conducted using the same methodologies used by other major telephone polls — Nielsen, Newspoll, Galaxy. In analysing telephone Morgan Poll results, it is worth noting that telephone polls are good at capturing the response to current events and have typically been biased towards the L-NP, obtain a higher figure for Minor parties and Independents and more 'responsive' to current events.

Margin of Error

The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. 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%
500	±4.3	±3.8	±2.6	±1.9
1,000	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.5	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
2,000	±2.1	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0

During the period:

- Prime Minister Julia Gillard reveals the long-awaited carbon price scheme Australian households will be handed more than $15 billion in compensation to help offset the impact of the Gillard Government's new Carbon Tax, Prime Minister Julia Gillard has confirmed.
- Opposition Leader Tony Abbott decries 'socialist' carbon scheme Opposition Leader Tony Abbott says "millions of Australians will be worse off" under the Government's carbon price scheme.
- Treasurer Wayne Swan pledges carbon compo for some miners The Gillard Government is promising extra assistance for some coal miners as it moves to counter the industry's campaign against the Carbon Tax.
- Monckton mocks 'darling' PM at Sydney rally Controversial climate change sceptic Lord Christopher Monckton has mocked Prime

Minister Julia Gillard on the eve of the Government's Carbon Tax announcement, saying Australia will become a "third world banana monarchy" if it introduces the Carbon Tax.

- Cattle industry fears it won't survive ban
A cattle export company is warning that by the time the live trade to Indonesia resumes, many companies that transport livestock will be out of business.
- News of the World shuts amid hacking scandal
The News of the World - the biggest-selling newspaper in the English-speaking world - shut down on Sunday following a scandal over phone hacking that included hacking the phones of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler, owner Rupert Murdoch's son James Murdoch said.
- Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) leaves interest rates on hold
The Reserve Bank of Australia has left official interest rates on hold for the eighth straight month at 4.75% amid weak economic data.
- CASA may extend Tiger grounding
The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) says it is working through the weekend to assess whether it will seek an extension on the grounding of Tiger Airways.
- Police given power to remove burkas
New South Wales police conducting routine car stops will be given the power to demand the removal of head coverings for identification.
- Network Ten to ditch dozens of staff
Network Ten has told its staff it is looking for 60 voluntary redundancies over the next few weeks, as it seeks to cut costs.
- Another horse tests positive to Hendra Virus
Another horse on a property near Boonah, south-west of Brisbane, has tested positive for the deadly Hendra Virus and has been put down.
- Portugal's rating turns to junk
A downgrading of Portugal's credit rating overnight ended the best weekly gain that US stocks have seen in two years.
- Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic stuns Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon
Novak Djokovic has won his first Wimbledon title by dethroning defending champion Rafael Nadal to celebrate his coronation as new world number one in style.

FEDERAL VOTING INTENTION SUMMARY - HOUSE OF REPS (%)

Note: National Party results are in brackets. # Sample Sizes under 50 should be treated with caution.

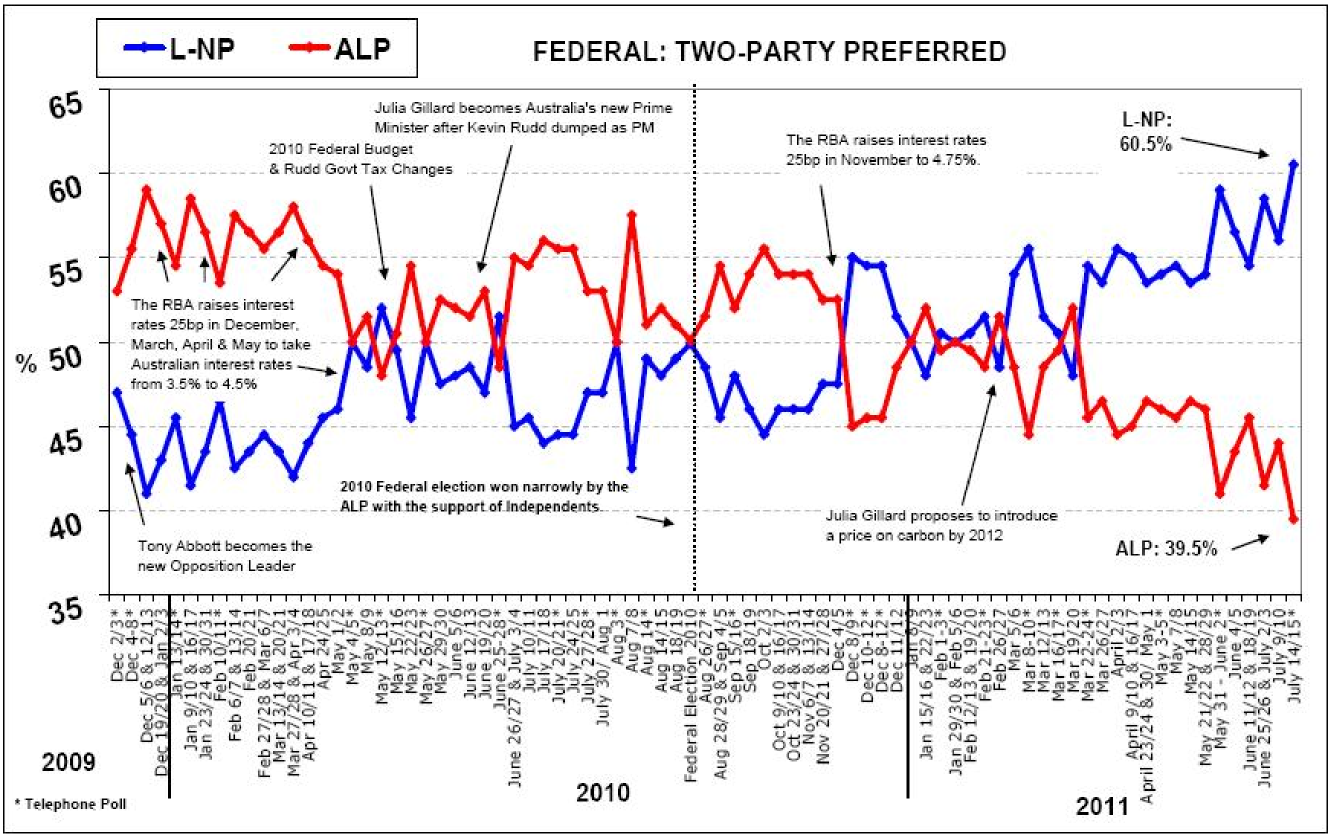
^ 1998 Federal election results have been updated to include results from the electorate of Newcastle supplementary election. The L-NP did not have a candidate contesting the electorate of Newcastle.

** The Family First Party were included as an option on Federal Voting Intention from October 30, 2004.*

***Family First were not reported in the SMS Morgan Poll of August 22/23, 2010.*

TWO-PARTY PREFERRED VOTE (%)

^ 1998 Federal Election results have been updated to include results from the electorate of Newcastle supplementary election. The L-NP did not have a candidate contesting the electorate of Newcastle.



THINK WILL WIN

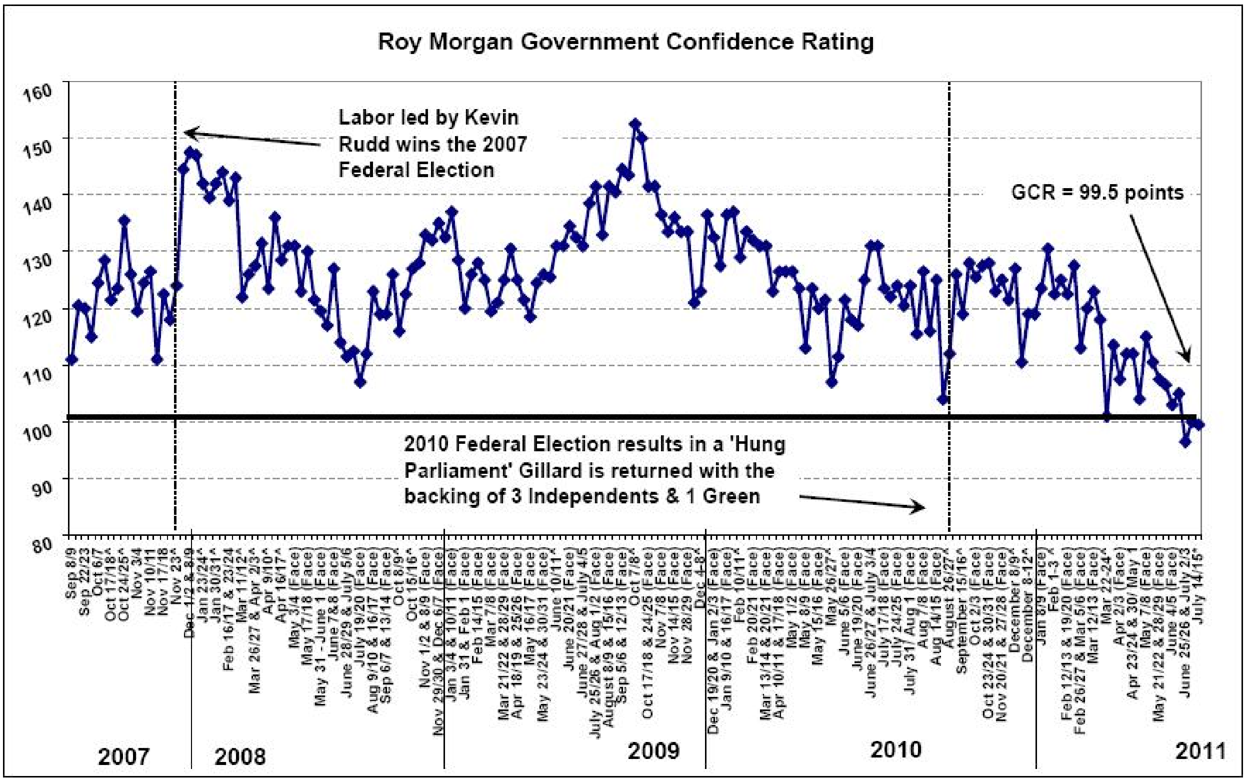
Respondents were asked: *"Regardless of who you'd like to win, who to you THINK will win the next Federal Election - the Liberal-National Coalition or the Labor Party?"*

AUSTRALIA HEADING IN "RIGHT" OR "WRONG" DIRECTION

Electors were asked: *"Generally speaking, do you feel that things in Australia are heading in the right direction or would you say things are seriously heading in the wrong direction?"*

Phone: Telephone survey method; Face: Face-to-face survey method.

** Roy Morgan GCR = Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating (100 plus the difference between the percentage of people who say the country is "going in the right direction" and the percentage who say the country is "going in seriously the wrong direction").*



Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only, and assume a simple random sample. 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%***
500	±4.5	±3.9	±2.7	±1.9
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.6	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
2,000	±2.2	±1.9	±1.3	±1

Source: http://www.roymorgan.com/news/polls/2011/4684/

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

180-43-36. U.S. Status as World's Superpower Challenged by Rise of China

U.S. Favorability Ratings Remain Positive

July 13, 2011

Will China Replace U.S. as World's Leading Superpower?

	Has already replaced U.S.	Will eventually replace U.S.	*Total has or will replace U.S.*	Will never replace U.S.
	%	%	*%*	%
U.S.	12	34	*46*	45
France	23	49	*72*	28
Spain	14	53	*67*	30
Britain	11	54	*65*	26
Germany	11	50	*61*	34
Poland	21	26	*47*	31
Russia	15	30	*45*	30
Lithuania	11	29	*40*	40
Ukraine	14	23	*37*	36
Turkey	15	21	*36*	41
Palest. ter.	17	37	*54*	38
Jordan	17	30	*47*	45
Israel	15	32	*47*	44
Lebanon	15	24	*39*	54
China	6	57	*63*	17
Pakistan	10	47	*57*	10
Japan	12	25	*37*	60
Indonesia	8	25	*33*	46
India	13	19	*32*	17
Mexico	19	34	*53*	31
Brazil	10	27	*37*	47
Kenya	7	37	*44*	43

Not asked in Egypt.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q28.

In most regions of the world, opinion of the United States continues to be more favorable than it was in the Bush years, but U.S. image now faces a new challenge: doubts about America's superpower status. In 15 of 22 nations, the balance of opinion is that China either will replace or already has replaced the United States as the world's leading superpower. This view is especially widespread in Western Europe, where at least six-in-ten in France (72%), Spain (67%), Britain (65%) and Germany (61%) see China overtaking the U.S.

Majorities in Pakistan, the Palestinian territories, Mexico and China itself also foresee China supplanting the U.S. as the world's dominant power. In most countries for which there are trends, the view that China will overtake the U.S. has increased substantially over the past two years, including by 10 or more percentage points in Spain, France, Pakistan, Britain, Jordan, Israel, Poland and Germany. Among Americans, the percentage saying that China will eventually overshadow or has already overshadowed the U.S. has increased from 33% in 2009 to 46% in 2011.

At least some of this changed view of the global balance of power may reflect the fact that the U.S. is increasingly seen as trailing China economically. This is especially the case in Western Europe, where the percentage naming China as the top economic power has increased by double digits in Spain, Germany, Britain and France since 2009.

More Western Europeans Convinced China Is World's Leading Economy

Name China as world's leading economic power

	2009	2010	2011	*09-11 Change*
	%	%	%	
Spain	22	34	49	*+27*
Germany	28	51	48	*+20*
Britain	34	44	47	*+13*
France	35	47	47	*+12*

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q26.

In other parts of the globe, fewer are convinced that China is the world's leading economic power. Majorities or pluralities in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America still name the U.S. as the world's dominant economic power. In the Middle East, Palestinians and Israelis agree that America continues to sit atop the global economy, while in Jordan and Lebanon more see China in this role. Notably, by an almost 2-to-1 margin the Chinese still believe the U.S. is the world's dominant economic power.

These are among the key findings from a survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, conducted March 18 to May 15.[1] The survey also finds that, in the U.S., France, Germany, Spain and Japan, those who see China as the world's leading economic power believe this is a bad thing. By contrast, those who name the U.S. tend to think it is good that America is still the top global economy. In developing countries those who believe China has already overtaken the U.S. economically generally view this as a positive development. Meanwhile, in China, those who believe the U.S. is still the world's leading economy tend to see this as a negative.

Compared with reaction to China's economic rise, global opinion is more consistently negative when it comes to the prospect of China equaling the U.S. militarily. Besides the Chinese themselves, only in Pakistan, Jordan, the Palestinian territories and Kenya do majorities see an upside to China matching the U.S. in terms of military power. Meanwhile, the prevailing view in Japan and India is that it would not be in their country's interest if China were to equal the U.S. militarily; majorities across Western and Eastern Europe, and in Turkey and Israel, share this view.

U.S. Image Largely Favorable

Despite the view in many countries that China either has or will surpass the U.S. as the leading superpower, opinion of America remains favorable, on balance. The median percentage offering a positive assessment of the U.S. is 60% among the 23 countries surveyed. The U.S. receives high marks in Western Europe, where at least six-in-ten in France, Spain, Germany and Britain rate the U.S. positively. Opinion of the U.S. is also consistently favorable across Eastern Europe, as well as in Japan, Kenya, Israel, Brazil and Mexico.

U.S. Favorability Rating

	1999/ 2000	2002	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
U.S.	--	--	--	83	76	80	84	88	85	79
Britain	83	75	70	55	56	51	53	69	65	61
France	62	62	42	43	39	39	42	75	73	75
Germany	78	60	45	42	37	30	31	64	63	62
Spain	50	--	38	41	23	34	33	58	61	64
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	73
Poland	86	79	--	62	--	61	68	67	74	70
Russia	37	61	37	52	43	41	46	44	57	56
Ukraine	70	80	--	--	--	54	--	--	--	60
Turkey	52	30	15	23	12	9	12	14	17	10
Egypt	--	--	--	--	30	21	22	27	17	20
Jordan	--	25	1	21	15	20	19	25	21	13
Lebanon	--	36	27	42	--	47	51	55	52	49
Palest. ter.	--	--	0	--	--	13	--	15	--	18
Israel	--	--	78	--	--	78	--	71	--	72
China	--	--	--	42	47	34	41	47	58	44
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41
Indonesia	75	61	15	38	30	29	37	63	59	54
Japan	77	72	--	--	63	61	50	59	66	85
Pakistan	23	10	13	23	27	15	19	16	17	12
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	62	62
Mexico	68	64	--	--	--	56	47	69	56	52
Kenya	94	80	--	--	--	87	--	90	94	83

1999/2000 survey trends provided by the U.S. Department of State.

Survey results are based on national samples except in China. See the Survey Methods section for more information.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q3a.

As in years past, U.S. image continues to suffer among predominantly Muslim countries, with the exception of Indonesia, where a majority expresses positive views of the U.S. One-in-five or fewer in Egypt, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Pakistan and Turkey view America favorably. In Lebanon, opinion of the U.S. is split, reflecting a religious and sectarian divide; the country's Shia community has overwhelmingly negative views of America, while Lebanese Sunnis and Christians are more positive.

Views of the U.S. in the Muslim world reflect, at least in part, opposition to the war in Afghanistan and U.S. efforts to fight terrorism. Moreover, few in predominantly Muslim countries say the U.S. takes a multilateral approach to foreign policy. Fewer than a quarter in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Pakistan and Turkey say the U.S. takes the interests of countries like theirs into account when making foreign policy decisions.

In Western Europe, fewer than half in Britain (40%), France (32%) and Spain (19%) say the U.S. takes the interests of other countries into account when making foreign policy decisions.

Only in Germany does a majority feel otherwise. In Eastern Europe, a third or less believe America acts multilaterally.

Interestingly, a majority of Chinese (57%) credit America with considering the interests of other nations, although last year more (76%) held this view. Elsewhere, majorities in Israel, India, Japan, Brazil and Kenya describe the U.S. as multilateral in its approach to foreign policy.

Western European Views on Afghanistan and Anti-Terrorism Efforts

	U.S., NATO troops in Afghanistan		*U.S.-led effort to fight terrorism*	
	Keep troops	**Remove troops**	**Favor**	**Oppose**
	%	%	%	%
Britain	41	51	59	32
France	41	58	71	29
Germany	41	58	67	30
Spain	51	44	58	38

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q52 & Q62.

Majorities or pluralities in nearly every country surveyed say the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops from Afghanistan as soon as possible; the only exceptions are Spain, Israel, India, Japan and Kenya, where more say troops should remain in that country until the situation is stabilized than say they should be removed. However, in many parts of the world, there is strong support for the broader, American-led effort to combat terrorism. About seven-in-ten in France (71%), two-thirds in Germany, 59% in Britain and 58% in Spain back U.S. anti-terrorism efforts. Majorities in Eastern Europe also support the U.S.-led fight against terrorism, as do most in Israel and Kenya.

U.S. Viewed More Favorably Than China

Across the nations surveyed, the U.S. generally receives more favorable marks than China: the median percentage rating China favorably is 52%, eight points lower than the median percentage offering a positive assessment of the U.S.

However, the number of people expressing positive views of China has grown in a number of countries, including the four Western European countries surveyed. China's image has also improved in Indonesia, Japan, Egypt and Poland. Opinion of China has worsened substantially in only two countries surveyed: Kenya (down 15 percentage points from last year) and Jordan (9 points lower than in 2010).

U.S. image, meanwhile, has declined in most countries for which there are trends. Compared with last year, favorable views of America are lower in Kenya (11 percentage points), Jordan (8 points), Turkey (7 points), Indonesia (5 points), Pakistan (5 points), Mexico (4 points), Poland (4 points) and Britain (4 points). However, the largest downward shift has occurred in China, where the number expressing a positive view of the U.S. has fallen 14 points - from 58% in 2010 to 44% today.

In Japan, by contrast, opinion of the U.S. has improved dramatically. A year ago, roughly two-thirds (66%) held a favorable view of America; today, more than eight-in-ten (85%) assess the U.S. favorably. This huge boost in U.S. image is attributable in part to America's role in helping Japan respond to the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck the island nation's northeast coast in March. A majority (57%) of Japanese say the U.S. has done a great deal to assist their country in responding to this dual disaster.

Read the full report, including views abroad of President Obama, at pewglobal.org where more information can be found on the *Pew Global Attitudes Project*. Read an analysis of the study in the*Wall Street Journal* by Pew Research Center president Andrew Kohut. (Registration may be required).

---

1. Throughout this report results for Pakistan are from interviews conducted in May 2011, following the death of Osama bin Laden. In all other countries, interviews were concluded in April 2011. A survey was also conducted in Pakistan prior to bin Laden's death. For more information, see ""U.S. Image in Pakistan Falls No Further Following bin Laden Killing," June 21, 2011.

Source: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2059/-superpower-china-us-image-abroad-afghanistan-terrorism

---

180-43-37. Dollar Trumps Euro in Former Soviet Union Countries

Azerbaijanis most confident in local currency, Belarusians least confident

July 14, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. **--** Residents of former Soviet Union countries in 2010 for the most part said they would prefer to keep any extra money they have in their local currency, but they preferred U.S. dollars over euros by a margin of 29% to 9%. Hardly any residents would keep their extra funds in Russian rubles.

If you had extra money and did not need to spend it in the near future, in which currency would you prefer to keep it?

	American dollars	Euro	Local currency	Russian rubles	Several currencies (volunteered)	It is not preferable to keep money savings (volunteered)	Don't know/ Refused
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MEDIAN	29	9	43	0	3	2	9
Tajikistan	51	4	34	1	0	2	8
Uzbekistan	41	2	49	0	1	2	3
Belarus	39	9	22	1	16	3	9
Georgia	38	23	28	0	1	1	10
Kyrgyzstan	35	6	47	1	3	1	7
Kazakhstan	29	10	43	0	5	3	11
Ukraine	28	17	39	0	5	2	9
Armenia	17	9	63	1	1	3	8
Azerbaijan	14	3	75	0	3	1	4
Moldova	12	28	43	0	7	1	9
Russia	8	12	56	*	6	6	12

May-September 2010

Preference for the Japanese yen was less than .5% in all countries.

*The Russian ruble is the local currency.

GALLUP'

The findings are from Gallup surveys conducted in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan between May and September 2010. The responses show the relative strength of the local currency, the U.S. dollar, the euro, and the Russian ruble in terms of how consumers perceive them. Gallup also asked about the Japanese yen, but less than .5% of respondents in any country selected it.

It is important to note that these data were collected in 2010, and do not reflect the latest fiscal challenges facing the eurozone countries of Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, and Spain as well as the U.S. Gallup's 2011 update on this question later this year will reveal whether these sentiments in the former Soviet countries have shifted.

U.S. Dollar Still the Cash Cow

Ten of the 11 countries surveyed use the U.S. dollar for major financial transactions, including the purchase or rental of property or vehicles, with only Moldova relying instead on the euro for transactions such as these. This reality may explain residents' tendency to prefer U.S. dollars, though it is also possible that residents' preference also helped establish the dollar as the transactional currency of choice. Still, the differences across countries reveal the U.S. dollars' relative strength and weakness from a behavioral economic perspective beyond measurable transactions. Residents of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan were the most likely to prefer to keep money in dollars, while residents of Russia were the least likely.

Like others in the region, residents of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan almost universally reject Russian rubles, even though residents of these countries heavily depend on temporary work in Russia. For example, 39% of Tajikistan residents say someone in their household works temporarily in another country and report at least one adult working in Russia.

Banking Woes in Belarus, Success Story in Azerbaijan, and Different Sides of the Coin in Georgia and Russia

Belarusians' relatively low 22% preference for their own local currency may be related to its sharp devaluation in recent years. The Central Bank of the Republic of Belarus raised the exchange rates on its currency in January 2009, lowering the exchange rate against the U.S. dollar by 20%. The Central Bank this May lowered the exchange rate against the U.S. dollar even more sharply, making it likely that views of the local currency have only grown more negative.

In contrast, Azerbaijanis were the most likely to want to keep money in their local currency, with 75% expressing this preference. The Azerbaijani manat remained stable during the global financial crisis, partly because the Central Bank of Azerbaijan lowered interest rates from 15% to 2%, increased the allowable amount of foreign ownership in the banks to 50%, and dropped reserve requirements down to a historically low .5%. Azerbaijan continues to show positive GDP growth and this week reported that its strategic monetary reserves of $40 billion are seven times the value of its foreign debts.

Georgia's strong relations with the U.S. are evident in that a relatively high 38% of residents prefer the U.S. dollar over their own currency and the euro. In contrast, 56% of Russians choose their own currency, and more choose the euro than choose the U.S. dollar.

Implications

As economies worldwide struggle to regain their economic footing following the global economic collapse, Gallup's behavioral economic data on how populations view different currencies provide a unique measure of economic strength and weakness. The tendency to prefer the U.S. dollar over the euro in former Soviet Union countries in 2010 suggests the dollar still carries clout despite the euro's higher exchange rate versus the dollar. Still, with the euro weakening in recent weeks and economic challenges persisting in several eurozone countries, this measure will be one to watch as Gallup collects new data each year.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in May-September 2010 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan and 2,000 adults in Russia. 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. 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/148478/Dollar-Trumps-Euro-Former-Soviet-Union-Countries.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=USA

180-43-38. International Connections Fan Desire to Migrate

Those who benefit from remittances more likely to want to move

July 12, 2011

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Gallup's data on international migration desires in 146 countries continue to reinforce the important role that transnational social networks play in migration. Adults who can rely on help from friends and family in other countries when they need it are nearly three times more likely to say they would like to migrate (30%) than those who do not have these types of networks (11%).

Ideally, if you had the opportunity, would you like to move permanently to another country, or would you prefer to continue living in this country?

% who would like to migrate

	Have relatives or friends living in another country whom you can count on to help	Do not have relatives or friends living in another country whom you can count on to help
World	30%	11%
Latin America	32%	16%
Northern America	16%	8%
European Union	28%	15%
Commonwealth of Independent States	26%	11%
Sub-Saharan Africa	48%	29%
Middle East and North Africa	37%	18%
Asia	26%	7%

Based on 401,490 interviews in 146 countries between 2008 and 2010.

GALLUP

These findings on adults' desire to move to other countries are based on a rolling average of Gallup's interviews with 401,490 adults in 146 countries between 2008 and 2010. The 146 countries represent more than 93% of the world's adult population.

Regardless of whether a country's development is high or low, Gallup finds people with links to family or friends abroad are more likely to want to move permanently to another country. These links are among the main influencers of adults' desire to migrate, particularly in Asia, where people with these networks are more than three times as likely to say they would like to move to another country than those who do not have these types of networks (26% vs. 7%, respectively).

Remittances Linked to Migration Desire

Gallup surveys conducted in 2010 revealed that adults who receive help from abroad in reality -- not hypothetically -- through remittances are also more likely to find the idea of moving to another country desirable. Among those whose households receive remittances from another country, 36% say they would like to relocate permanently, while 12% of those who do not receive this type of help say they would like to move to another country.

Implications

Social support networks continue to play an important role in the migration process, from pre-departure to arrival and, ultimately, to integration. Gallup data show these family, friends, and community networks are a key influencer of people's desire to migrate -- one that cuts across socio-economic, geographical, and cultural boundaries worldwide.

Whether these networks have as strong a relationship to the actual decision-making, planning, and preparation stages requires further study, but do they appear to make the idea of migration more attractive.

Survey Methods

Results are based on aggregated telephone and face-to-face interviews with 401,490 adults, aged 15 and older, in 146 countries from 2008 to 2010. The 146 countries surveyed represent 93% of the world's adult population. One can say with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error for the entire sample, accounting for weighting and sample design, is less than ±1 percentage point.

Source:http://www.gallup.com/poll/148412/International-Connections-Fan-Desire-Migrate.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Americas%20-%20Asia%20-%20Latin%20America%20-%20Muslim%20World

---

CYBER WORLD

180-43-39. Smartphone Adoption and Usage

Jul 11, 2011

OVERVIEW

How smartphone owners describe their phones

In its first standalone measure of smartphone ownership, the Pew Internet Project finds that one third of American adults – 35% – own smartphones. The Project's May survey found that 83% of US adults have a cell phone of some kind, and that 42% of them own a smartphone. That translates into 35% of all adults.

Our definition of a smartphone owner includes anyone who falls into either of the following two categories:

- One-third of cell owners (33%) *say that their phone is a smartphone*.
- Two in five cell owners (39%) *say that their phone operates on a smartphone platform* (these include iPhones and Blackberry devices, as well as phones running the Android, Windows or Palm operating systems).

Several demographic groups have high levels of smartphone adoption, including the financially well-off and well-educated, non-whites, and those under the age of 45.

Some 87% of smartphone owners access the internet or email on their handheld, including two-thirds (68%) who do so on a typical day. When asked what device they normally use to access the internet, 25% of smartphone owners say that they mostly go online using their phone, rather than with a computer. While many of these individuals have other sources of online access at home, roughly one third of these "cell mostly" internet users lack a high-speed home broadband connection.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The results reported here are based on a national telephone survey of 2,277 adults conducted April 26-May 22, 2011. 1,522 interviews were conducted by landline phone, and 755 interviews were conducted by cell phone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish. For results based on all adults, the margin of error is +/-2 percentage points; for results based on all cell owners, the margin of error is +/-3 percentage points (n=1,194); and for results based on smartphone owners, the margin of error is +/-4.5 percentage points (n=688).

Source: http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/Smartphones.aspx

---

180-43-40. Canada's Love Affair with Online Social Networking Continues

Sixty Percent (60%) of Online Canadians, or One-Half (50%) of all Canadians Now Have a Social Networking Profile

Facebook Dominates Canadian Social Networking Landscape, but Twitter, LinkedIn Quickly Gaining Ground

Thursday, July 14, 2011

Vancouver, BC – If you want to learn how Canadians are communicating and interacting online, look no further than social networking sites. According to Ipsos' most recent Canadian Interactive Reid Report special feature on Social Networking, one-half of all Canadians (50%) and the majority of online Canadians (60%) now have a social networking profile.

Social networking is no longer the exclusive domain of youth, either. While younger online Canadians aged 18 to 34 years (86%) are the most likely to have a social networking profile, other age groups are not getting left behind, as a majority (62%) of those aged 35 to 54 now have profiles and a good portion (43%) of those 55 years and older have one too.

While the number of Canadians with a social networking profile has only increased by 4 percentage points in the last two years, what is more significant is the dramatic increase in the frequency in which they are using social networks. Nearly one-half of online Canadians (45%) are now visiting a social networking site at least once a week, and 30% visit daily, which compares to 35% who were visiting weekly, and 19% who were visiting daily this time last year. Momentum continues to grow as well, as 32% of those who have an online profile admit they are using it more than last year vs. 15% who say they are using it less (53% say their usage is the same).

Females have really taken to social networking as females tend to visit social networking sites more frequently than their male counterparts. Online Canadian women are much more likely to visit a social networking site at least once a day than men (37% compared to 24% of men).

"There have been some suggestions in the media recently that social networking is leveling off in industrialized countries," says Steve Mossop, President of Ipsos Reid's Western Canada practice. "While the number of Canadians accessing online social networks may be peaking, the engagement in this platform has not diminished. In fact we continue to see dramatic increases in usage."

In Canada, Facebook remains the dominant player in social networking. The vast majority (86%) of Canadian social networkers has a social networking profile with Facebook, a proportion that has remained relatively unchanged since 2009 (85%). But Facebook’s dominance may be challenged from the significant growth of both Twitter and LinkedIn over the past year. During that same period, the number of Canadians with a profile on Twitter has grown exponentially from almost none (<1%) in 2009 to 10% last year, and 19% today. The proportion with a profile on the professional social networking site LinkedIn has more than doubled during the same period from 6% in 2009 to 14% today.

Also significant is the finding that nearly half (48%) of Canadians with social networking profiles ‘like’ or ‘follow’ at least one brand or company through their social networking site. And of those who follow at least one brand, the number of brands followed averages 6.7.

“A new era has dawned in the social networking space,” Mossop continues. “The first five years was about building awareness and usage around socializing, and consumers responded positively. The next five years will be about commercialization of social networking. Companies who understand, and enter this space will gain a whole new way of interacting with and engaging their customers.”

This release is based on the findings of an Ipsos Reid syndicated study, the Inter@ctive Reid Report, fielded in April, 2011. This online survey of 840 Canadian adults was conducted via the Ipsos Online Panel. The results are based on a sample where quota sampling and weighting are employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data. Quota samples with weighting from the Ipsos online panel provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. An unweighted probability sample of this size, with a 100% response rate, would have an estimated margin of error of +/- 3.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

About Ipsos Reid

Ipsos Reid is Canada's market intelligence leader, the country's leading provider of public opinion research, and research partner for loyalty and forecasting and modelling insights. With operations in eight cities, Ipsos Reid employs more than 600 research professionals and support staff in Canada. The company has the biggest network of telephone call centres in the country, as well as the largest pre-recruited household and online panels. Ipsos Reid's marketing research and public affairs practices offer the premier suite of research vehicles in Canada, all of which provide clients with actionable and relevant information. Staffed with seasoned research consultants with extensive industry-specific backgrounds, Ipsos Reid offers syndicated information or custom solutions across key sectors of the Canadian economy, including consumer packaged goods, financial services, automotive, retail, and technology & telecommunications. Ipsos Reid is an Ipsos company, a leading global survey-based market research group.

Source: http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5286