



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
 1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 700
 Washington, D.C. 20036
 Tel (202) 419-4350
 Fax (202) 419-4399

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Andrew Kohut, Director
Michael Remez, Senior Writer

Most See Too Much Coverage of Weiner, Palin Public Focused on Economy, Media on Weiner Scandal

Americans focused most closely last week on economic news amid continued reports about the weakness of the recovery, while the media gave the most coverage to the scandal involving New York Rep. Anthony Weiner.

About a quarter of the public (23%) says the economy was their top story of the week, according to the latest News Interest Index survey conducted June 9-12 among 1,002 adults by the Pew

Research Center for the People & the Press. By comparison, 13% say they most closely followed news about Weiner's admission that he sent sexually suggestive photos and messages to several women online.

In that regard, most Americans (63%) say news organizations are giving too much coverage to the scandal involving the Democratic lawmaker. Weiner's troubles accounted for 17% of coverage, according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's

News Interest vs. News Coverage

	News Interest	News Coverage
Economy	23	11
Rep. Anthony Weiner	13	17
Arizona wildfires	11	4
2012 elections	9	8
Libya	4	3
Yemen	2	3

News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, June 9-12, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, June 6-12, 2011.

Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). News about the economy made up 11% of the newshole.

About four-in-ten (39%) say they followed reports about the condition of the economy very closely, more than double the number following any other top story that closely. The level of interest is comparable to one week earlier (35%), when the news included downbeat reports about the health of the job, housing and financial markets.

Just 15% say they very closely followed news about the Weiner scandal, which unfolded over the course of the week with his initial admission, additional revelations and calls for his resignation from Democratic leaders. About a quarter (27%) say they followed this story fairly closely. But more than half say they followed it not too (23%) or not at all closely (34%). Interest was comparable among men and women and among Republicans, Democrats and independents.

Interest in this story is similar to interest in several recent scandals involving lawmakers or governors. Those include the admission in June 2009 by then-Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina about his affair with an Argentinean woman or the arrest in September 2007 of then-Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho for disorderly conduct in an airport bathroom.

Interest in Weiner Story Comparable to Recent Sex Scandals

<i>How closely did you follow news about...</i>	Very %	Fairly %	Not too/Not at all %	DK %
Rep. Anthony Weiner (June '11)	15	27	57	1=100
Gov. Eliot Spitzer (March 2008)	26	35	39	*=100
Rep. Mark Foley (Oct. 2006)	26	32	41	1=100
Sen. Larry Craig (Sept. 2007)	19	29	51	1=100
Gov. Mark Sanford (June 2009)	16	25	58	1=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 9-12, 2011.

However, the public expressed greater interest in news about the resignation of former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer in March 2008 after revelations about his use of prostitutes or the October 2006 resignation of former Florida Rep. Mark Foley, who had sent inappropriate messages to young congressional pages.

The Week's Other News

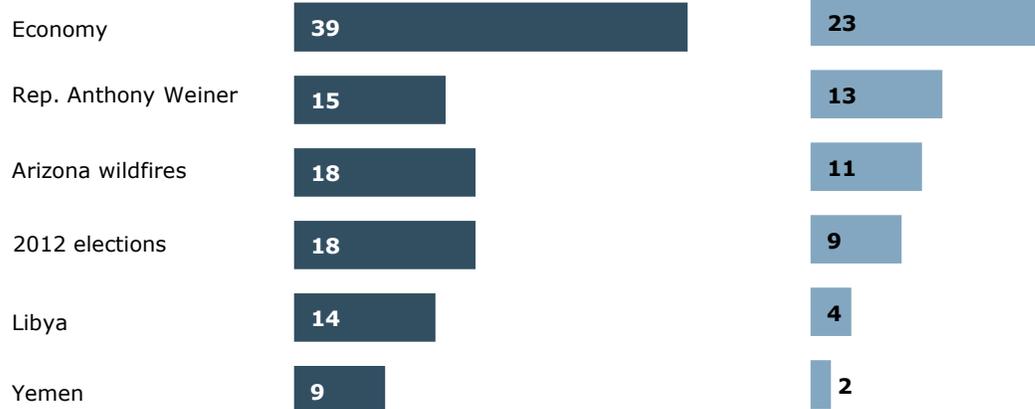
Nearly two-in-ten (18% each) say they very closely followed news last week about wildfires raging in Arizona and the early stages of the 2012 presidential election. About one-in-ten (11%) say they followed news about the wildfires most closely, while 9% say news about their election was their top story. News about the 2012 campaign – focused now on the possible Republican field – accounted for 8% of coverage, while the wildfires accounted for 4%.

Smaller numbers tracked developments in the Middle East and North Africa. Just 14% say they followed news about the situation and events in Libya very closely. That's down from 21% one week earlier; 4% say this was the news they followed most closely. About one-in-ten (9%) say they followed news about the anti-government unrest and violence in Yemen very closely. This was the top story for 2%. News about Libya and Yemen each accounted for 3% of coverage.

News Interest

% following each story very closely

Which one story did you follow most closely?

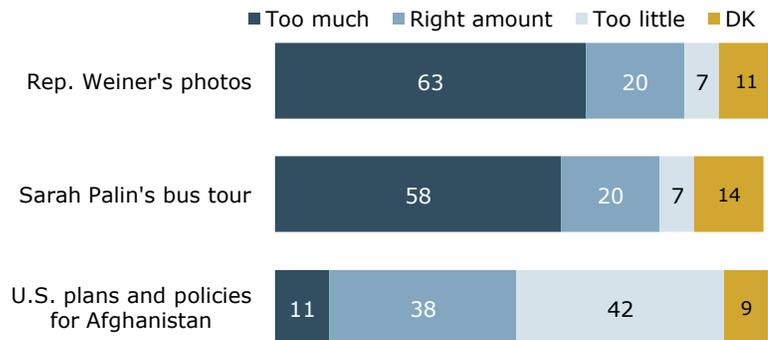


PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 9-12, 2011.

Public Sees Too Much Coverage of Weiner, Palin

Solid majorities say news organizations have given too much coverage to the Weiner photo scandal (63%) and to Sarah Palin's bus tour of historic sites (58%). By contrast, just 11% say news about U.S. plans and policies for Afghanistan have been over-covered; 42% say this story has gotten too little media attention.

Weiner, Palin Seen as Overcovered



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 9-12, 2011.

Just 7% say the Weiner story got too little coverage, matching the number that says this about Palin's tour.

The sense that the Weiner and Palin stories have gotten too much coverage crosses partisan lines – majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents offer this assessment. Still, there are modest differences in opinion by party. Among Republicans, 57% say the Weiner story has gotten too much coverage, somewhat less than the 68% of Democrats that say this. Two-thirds of independents (66%) say the same.

More Democrats (64%) than Republicans (52%) say Palin's bus tour has gotten too much attention, a view shared by 58% of independents. There are no party differences concerning coverage of Afghanistan.

As has been the case in the past, few say Afghanistan gets too much media attention. But the public is now about evenly divided over whether Afghanistan has gotten too little (42%) or the right amount of media coverage (38%). For the past two years, the public has generally been more likely to say Afghanistan-related news has been under-covered than to say it has gotten the right amount.

News Media Personnel Changes Little Noticed

Few Americans have heard a lot about recent career changes for several prominent network and cable television news personalities and anchors.

About one-in-ten (9%) heard a lot and 40% heard a little about news that Katie Couric, the former CBS Evening News anchor, will host a talk show, starting in the fall.

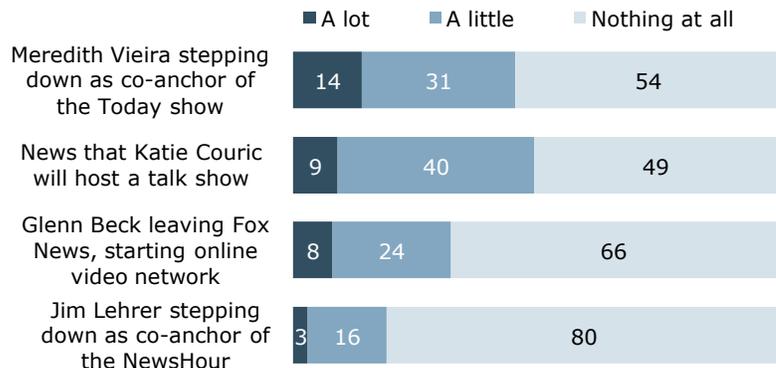
About half (49%) say they heard nothing at all about this. Looking at a different measure, when Couric announced in April 2006 that she was leaving NBC's Today show to join CBS News, just 12% followed this news very closely.

Nearly as many had heard at least a little about Meredith Vieira's departure from NBC's Today show: 14% say they heard a lot about this and 31% say they heard a little. Still, 54% say they had heard nothing at all about this. Women are more likely to have heard a lot about this story (19%) than are men (9%). Those with more education also were slightly more likely to have heard about Vieira leaving the Today show. Her last day was June 8.

Almost a third of the public says they had heard at least a little (8% a lot, 24% a little) about Glenn Beck's plans to leave Fox News and start his own video network online; two-thirds (66%) had heard nothing at all about this. Republicans (14%) are more likely to have heard a lot about Beck's plans than are independents (7%) or Democrats (5%). Beck is leaving the Fox News Channel at the end of this month.

About two-in-ten heard at least a little about Jim Lehrer stepping down as co-anchor of The NewsHour on PBS (3% heard a lot, 16% a little). A large majority (80%) say they heard nothing at all about this. Men and people with more education were somewhat more likely to have heard about Lehrer's departure. His last day was June 3, though he will continue to be a part of The NewsHour on Fridays.

Few Heard Much News About Media Changes



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 9-12, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding and because "don't know" responses not shown.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected June 6-12, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected June 9-12 from a nationally representative sample of 1,002 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Thursday through Sunday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted June 9-12, 2011, among a national sample of 1,002 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (672 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 330 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 122 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,002	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	288	7.0 percentage points
Democrats	309	7.0 percentage points
Independents	324	7.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
June 9-12, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,002

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. Controversy about Congressman Anthony Weiner admitting that he sent sexually suggestive photos of himself to several women in online messages June 9-12, 2011	15	27	23	34	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 12-15, 2010: <i>The resignation of Congressman Eric Massa amid allegations of improper conduct with staff members</i>	7	17	28	47	*
June 26-29, 2009: <i>South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford admitting he had an affair</i>	16	25	28	30	1
August 15-18, 2008: <i>John Edwards' admission that he had an affair</i>	13	26	30	30	1
March 14-17, 2008: <i>The governor of New York, Eliot Spitzer, resigning because of his involvement with a prostitution ring</i>	26	35	24	15	*
September 7-10, 2007: <i>Reports about Idaho Senator Larry Craig's political future following his arrest for disorderly conduct in a men's restroom</i>	16	27	27	29	1
August 30-September 2, 2007: <i>Idaho Senator Larry Craig's arrest for disorderly conduct in a men's restroom in the Minneapolis airport</i>	19	29	22	29	1
October 17-22, 2006: <i>The resignation of Congressman Mark Foley, who sent inappropriate messages to young people</i>	26	32	23	18	1
September 5-8, 1996: <i>The resignation of (Bill) Clinton advisor Dick Morris over charges of sexual misconduct</i>	17	29	33	21	*
October 5-8, 1989: <i>The scandal involving Congressman Barney Frank and a male prostitute</i>	6	19	26	48	1
September 1-15, 1987: <i>The end of Gary Hart's candidacy and the Donna Rice allegations</i>	28	35	27	10	*
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
June 9-12, 2011	39	30	15	16	1
June 2-5, 2011	35	34	17	14	*
May 19-22, 2011	33	34	17	16	*
May 12-15, 2011	32	32	17	18	2
May 5-8, 2011	40	35	15	9	1
April 21-25, 2011	41	33	12	14	*
April 14-17, 2011	44	30	14	12	1
April 7-10, 2011	46	30	14	10	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 31-April 3, 2011	42	31	16	11	0
March 24-27, 2011	36	32	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011	38	32	17	13	*
March 10-13, 2011	40	30	16	13	*
March 3-6, 2011	37	31	17	13	1
February 24-27, 2011	49	29	11	10	*
February 17-20, 2011	35	33	14	17	*
February 10-13, 2011	36	34	13	16	*
February 3-6, 2011	35	37	14	14	*
January 20-23, 2011	37	33	14	15	1
January 13-16, 2010	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1
December 16-19, 2010	39	31	14	15	2
December 9-12, 2010	39	30	14	16	1
December 2-5, 2010	52	28	11	9	*
November 18-21, 2010	46	31	11	11	*
November 11-14, 2010	38	30	15	16	1
November 4-7, 2010	44	32	11	13	*
October 28-November 1, 2010	39	34	11	15	1
October 21-24, 2010	41	29	14	14	1
October 14-17, 2010	42	33	12	13	*
October 7-10, 2010	36	33	15	15	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	43	35	10	11	1
September 23-26, 2010	43	34	13	9	1
September 16-19, 2010	37	30	16	16	1
September 2-6, 2010	43	31	13	12	*
August 19-22, 2010	39	31	14	15	1
August 5-8, 2010	39	33	14	13	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	51	33	11	5	*
July 22-25, 2010	46	33	14	6	1
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
June 17-20, 2010	38	34	15	13	*
June 10-13, 2010	39	35	17	9	*
June 3-6, 2010	35	33	16	14	1
May 27-30, 2010	43	29	13	15	*
May 20-23, 2010	40	35	13	11	*
May 13-16, 2010	49	32	11	8	1
May 7-10, 2010	42	34	11	12	*
April 30-May 3, 2010	32	37	17	14	1
April 23-26, 2010	42	31	13	14	*
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
c. Anti-government unrest and violence in Yemen					
June 9-12, 2011	9	20	26	44	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Antigovernment protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
April 28-May 1, 2011	18	29	25	27	1
April 21-25, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Libya</i>	21	35	20	22	1
April 14-17, 2011	21	30	25	23	1
April 7-10, 2011	28	35	21	16	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Military air strikes in Libya by the U.S. and its allies</i>	37	31	17	14	1
March 24-27, 2011	33	34	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011: <i>The conflict between rebels and government forces in Libya</i>	26	28	21	23	1
March 10-13, 2011: <i>Growing violence in Libya</i>	29	29	21	20	*
March 3-6, 2011	31	31	18	19	1
February 24-27, 2011	38	30	15	16	*
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 17-20, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in other Middle Eastern and North African nations</i>	20	30	22	28	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
January 20-23, 2011: <i>Political instability in Tunisia following the collapse of the government</i>	7	15	25	53	1
January, 2007: <i>The U.S. air strikes on suspected terrorist sites in Somalia</i>	17	32	27	23	1
May, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces</i>	32	38	19	10	1
Late April, 1999	41	39	13	7	*
April, 1999	41	37	16	6	0
March, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo</i>	43	32	15	9	1
August, 1998: <i>U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan</i>	44	35	13	8	*
July 10-24, 1986: <i>The U.S. air strike against Libya</i>	58	27	11	3	1
d. The current situation and events in Libya					
June 9-12, 2011	14	27	25	33	1
April 21-25, 2011	21	35	20	22	1
April 14-17, 2011	21	30	25	23	1
April 7-10, 2011	28	35	21	16	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Military air strikes in Libya by the U.S. and its allies</i>	37	31	17	14	1
March 24-27, 2011	33	34	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011: <i>The conflict between rebels and government forces in Libya</i>	26	28	21	23	1
March 10-13, 2011: <i>Growing violence in Libya</i>	29	29	21	20	*
March 3-6, 2011	31	31	18	19	1
February 24-27, 2011	38	30	15	16	*
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 17-20, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in other Middle Eastern and North African nations</i>	20	30	22	28	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
January 20-23, 2011: <i>Political instability in Tunisia following the collapse of the government</i>	7	15	25	53	1
January, 2007: <i>The U.S. air strikes on suspected terrorist sites in Somalia</i>	17	32	27	23	1
May, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces</i>	32	38	19	10	1
Late April, 1999	41	39	13	7	*
April, 1999	41	37	16	6	0
March, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo</i>	43	32	15	9	1
August, 1998: <i>U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan</i>	44	35	13	8	*
July 10-24, 1986: <i>The U.S. air strike against Libya</i>	58	27	11	3	1
e. News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections					
June 9-12, 2011	18	30	22	30	1
June 2-5, 2011	21	31	22	26	*
May 26-29, 2011	20	27	24	28	*
May 19-22, 2011	15	27	24	32	1
May 12-15, 2011	15	22	26	35	1
May 5-8, 2011	16	24	27	32	1
April 21-25, 2011	18	26	23	32	1
April 14-17, 2011	20	23	29	27	1
March 24-27, 2011	13	19	26	41	1
March 10-13, 2011	15	21	26	38	0
February 10-13, 2011	16	19	24	40	*
February 3-6, 2011	15	20	23	42	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>2008 Presidential Election</i>	44	36	11	8	1
October 17-20, 2008	61	28	7	4	*
October 10-13, 2008	52	31	12	5	*
October 3-6, 2008	57	31	8	4	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September 26-29, 2008	56	29	10	5	*
September 19-22, 2008	47	33	14	6	*
September 12-15, 2008	40	38	14	7	1
September 5-8, 2008	45	39	12	4	*
August 29-31, 2008	45	32	15	8	*
August 22-25, 2008	31	36	22	11	*
August 15-18, 2008	25	41	19	14	1
August 8-11, 2008	27	38	22	13	*
August 1-4, 2008	30	42	19	9	*
July 25-28, 2008	30	34	21	15	*
July 18-21, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
July 11-14, 2008	28	34	22	15	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	23	17	*
June 27-30, 2008	39	33	18	10	*
June 20-23, 2008	28	38	22	12	*
June 13-16, 2008	35	35	20	10	*
June 6-9, 2008	38	35	17	10	*
May 30-June 2, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
May 22-25, 2008	32	37	20	11	*
May 16-19, 2008	33	37	19	10	1
May 9-12, 2008	35	36	18	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	27	35	23	14	1
April 25-28, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
April 18-21, 2008	29	41	19	10	1
April 11-14, 2008	31	37	22	10	*
April 4-7, 2008	33	36	17	14	*
March 28-31, 2008	31	41	18	10	*
March 20-24, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
March 14-17, 2008	40	37	16	7	*
March 7-10, 2008	39	36	15	9	1
February 29-March 3, 2008	43	34	14	9	*
February 22-25, 2008	42	37	13	8	*
February 15-18, 2008	44	36	10	10	*
February 8-11, 2008	39	37	15	9	0
February 1-4, 2008	37	35	16	12	*
January 25-28, 2008	36	37	14	12	1
January 18-21, 2008	36	34	18	12	*
January 11-14, 2008 ¹	32	31	19	17	1
January 4-7, 2008	33	36	19	11	1
December 14-17, 2007	25	34	22	19	*
December 7-10, 2007	24	35	22	19	*
November 30 - December 3, 2007	23	35	23	19	*
November 23-26, 2007	20	33	26	20	1
November 16-19, 2007	26	33	21	19	1
November 9-12, 2007	21	33	25	21	*
November 2-5, 2007	27	30	21	21	1
October 26-29, 2007	21	34	26	19	*
October 19-22, 2007	23	32	22	23	*
October 12-15, 2007	13	31	26	30	*
October 5-8, 2007	22	30	24	24	*
September 28 - October 1, 2007	21	34	25	20	*
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*

¹ January 11-14, 2008 asked about: "News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	1
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1
February 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*
February 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1
February 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1
February 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*
January 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*
January 19-22, 2007 ²	24	27	22	26	1
November, 2004 (RVs): 2004 Presidential Election	52	36	8	4	*
Mid-October, 2004	46	30	12	11	1
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*
Late February, 2004	24	40	23	12	1
Early February, 2004 ³	29	37	20	13	1
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1
January, 2003	14	28	29	28	1
Early November, 2000 (RVs): 2000 Presidential Election	39	44	12	5	*

² January 19-22, 2007 asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

³ From May 2003 to Early February 2004 and in March 1992, the story was listed as "The race for the Democratic nomination." In January 2003, the story was listed as "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004." In September 2000, Early September and July 1996, and May 1992, the question asked about "the presidential election campaign." In January, March and April 1996, the story was listed as "News about the Republican presidential candidates." In August 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential election." In July 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential campaign." In January 1992, the story was listed as "News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination." In 1988, the story was introduced as being from "this past year" and was listed as "News about the presidential campaign in 1988."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mid-October, 2000 (RVs)	40	37	15	8	*
Early October, 2000 (RVs)	42	36	15	6	1
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	*
July, 2000	21	38	20	20	1
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1
November, 1996 (RVs): 1996 Presidential Election	34	45	15	6	*
October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*
f. Wildfires in Arizona					
June 9-12, 2011	18	27	24	30	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September 3-6, 2009: <i>Southern California wildfires</i>	22	32	29	16	0
April 24-27, 2009: <i>Wildfires in South Carolina</i>	12	21	29	38	*
November 14-17, 2008: <i>California wildfires</i>	21	28	29	22	*
October 17-20, 2008	15	28	33	24	*
July 11-14, 2008	22	34	28	16	*
October 26-29, 2007	40	41	13	6	*
January 12-15, 2007: <i>Fires in Malibu, California</i>	10	20	31	38	1
November, 2003: <i>California wildfires</i>	38	35	17	9	1
June, 2002: <i>Wildfires in Colorado and other western states</i>	30	36	25	9	*
September, 2001: <i>Wild fires in the west</i>	28	37	24	11	*
December, 1993: <i>Southern California fires</i>	44	39	13	4	*
July, 1990	29	35	24	12	0

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

Jun 9-12

2011

23	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
	Controversy about Congressman Anthony Weiner admitting that he sent sexually
13	suggestive photos of himself to several women in online messages
11	Wildfires in Arizona
9	News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
4	The current situation and events in Libya
2	Anti-government unrest and violence in Yemen
15	Some other story (VOL.)
22	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Meredith Vieira stepping down as co-anchor of the Today Show				
June 9-12, 2011	14	31	54	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
May 26-29, 2011: <i>The end of Oprah Winfrey's daytime talk show</i>	36	37	26	1
May 19-22, 2011: <i>Katie Couric stepping down from her role as anchor of the CBS Evening News</i>	8	47	44	1
July 1-5, 2010: <i>Larry King announcing he will retire from his CNN talk show in the fall</i>	15	45	39	1
b. Jim Lehrer stepping down as co-anchor of The NewsHour on PBS				
June 9-12, 2011	3	16	80	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
May 19-22, 2011: <i>Katie Couric stepping down from her role as anchor of the CBS Evening News</i>	8	47	44	1
c. News that Katie Couric will host a talk show starting in the fall				
June 9-12, 2011	9	40	49	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
May 19-22, 2011: <i>Katie Couric stepping down from her role as anchor of the CBS Evening News</i>	8	47	44	1
October 3-6, 2008: <i>Sarah Palin's TV interview with Katie Couric of CBS News</i>	41	37	22	*
September 26-29, 2008	31	37	32	*
d. News that Glenn Beck is leaving Fox News, and creating his own online video network				
June 9-12, 2011	8	24	66	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
May 26-29, 2011: <i>The end of Oprah Winfrey's daytime talk show</i>	36	37	26	1
May 19-22, 2011: <i>Katie Couric stepping down from her role as anchor of the CBS Evening News</i>	8	47	44	1
August 26-29-2010: <i>Talk show host Glenn Beck's upcoming rally at the Lincoln Memorial, on the anniversary of Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech⁴</i>	16	26	58	*
August 19-22, 2010	11	17	71	*
July 1-5, 2010: <i>Larry King announcing he will retire from his CNN talk show in the fall</i>	15	45	39	1

PEWWP.1-PEWWP.2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

⁴ The word "upcoming" was removed from this question in polling that took place Saturday, Aug. 28, and Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, as the event took place on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010.

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage or the right amount of coverage to each of the following? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Sarah Palin's bus tour				
June 9-12, 2011	58	7	20	14
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
January 13-16, 2011: <i>Sarah Palin</i> ⁵	49	15	29	7
November 20-23, 2009	52	13	26	9
July 10-13, 2009	38	18	40	4
October 24-27, 2008	46	18	33	3
September 5-8, 2008: <i>Sarah Palin's background</i>	43	7	47	3
b. U.S. plans and policies for Afghanistan				
June 9-12, 2011	11	42	38	9
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>The release of several thousand classified documents about Afghanistan by the WikiLeaks website</i>	15	41	32	12
July 8-11, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	6	47	40	7
October 16-19, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	11	39	46	4
March 20-23, 2009	7	54	36	3
June 20-23, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>	7	55	34	4
c. Congressman Anthony Weiner sending sexually suggestive photos online to women				
June 9-12, 2011	63	7	20	11
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
March 14-17, 2008: <i>Eliot Spitzer's resignation as governor of New York</i> ⁶	53	5	35	7
August 17-20, 1995: <i>Sexual harassment charges leveled against Senator Bob Packwood</i> ⁷	28	14	52	6
March 12-15, 2010: <i>The resignation of New York Congressman Eric Massa amid allegations of improper conduct with staff members</i>	39	12	32	16

⁵ Items not asked as part of a list, except October 24-27, 2008, when it was asked about a list of candidates in context of the 2008 presidential election.

⁶ Item not asked as part of a list.

⁷ Item not asked as part of a list and question asked about "the media" not "news organizations".