

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted May 15-18, 2014 among a national sample of 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (500 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 500 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 291 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and MKTG 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 and Spanish. 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. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2013 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 among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted 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	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,000	3.6 percentage points
Republican	253	7.2 percentage points
Conservative Rep	178	8.6 percentage points
Democrat	290	6.8 percentage points
Liberal Dem	110	11.0 percentage points
Independent	358	6.1 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
May 15-18, 2014 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000

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.) DK/Ref
a. News about this year's congressional elections					
May 15-18, 2014	13	24	25	38	1
March 20-23, 2014	15	22	22	39	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October 28-November 1, 2010	29	30	17	23	1
October 27-30, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	35	17	20	1
October 21-24, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i>	30	28	18	23	1
October 13-18, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	24	34	22	19	1
October 14-17, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i>	33	25	19	23	*
October 7-10, 2010	23	27	19	30	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	25	34	19	21	1
September 23-26, 2010	25	33	23	18	1
September 16-19, 2010	23	26	23	27	1
September 9-12, 2010	22	23	21	34	1
September 2-6, 2010	26	24	23	26	1
August 26-29, 2010	20	27	23	28	1
August 19-22, 2010	19	23	24	33	1
August 12-15, 2010	20	22	19	38	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	29	34	22	14	*
July 15-18, 2010	17	23	26	33	1
June 16-20, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	15	33	31	20	*
June 10-13, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i>	20	29	24	27	1
May 20-23, 2010	23	25	24	27	*
April 23-26, 2010	20	25	19	35	*
March 5-8, 2010	25	27	21	26	1
January 8-11, 2010	20	24	26	29	1
Early November, 2006: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	37	18	17	1
Late October, 2006 (RVs)	27	45	17	11	*
Early October, 2006	21	38	25	15	1
Early September, 2006	16	32	28	23	1
August, 2006	20	29	28	22	1
June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2
May, 2006	18	28	30	23	1
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	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
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1
Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*
Early August, 1998	13	30	28	23	1
June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1
April, 1998 ¹	16	33	24	27	*
November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*
Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1
Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1
September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*
November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*
October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*
b. The investigation into a missing Malaysia Airlines plane					
May 15-18, 2014	25	31	24	19	1
April 3-6, 2014	33	31	21	14	1
March 20-23, 2014	39	33	18	9	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
July 11-14, 2013: <i>A plane crash in San Francisco</i>	24	32	21	22	1
November 16-19, 2009: <i>News about a US Airways flight crashing into the Hudson River</i>	44	34	14	8	*
May 15-18, 2009: <i>The investigation into a February plane crash in Buffalo, New York</i>	17	26	25	33	*
February 13-16, 2009: <i>A plane crashing into a house near Buffalo, New York, killing 50 people</i>	32	39	16	13	*
August 22-28, 2008: <i>A plane crash in Madrid, Spain</i>	8	22	32	37	1
July 20-23, 2007: <i>A plane crash in Brazil that killed nearly 200 people</i>	13	28	27	31	1
November, 2001: <i>The recent crash on an American Airlines plane near Kennedy Airport in New York</i>	48	34	13	4	1
February, 2000: <i>Crash of an Alaskan Airlines jet near Los Angeles</i>	35	40	17	8	*
December, 1999: <i>The crash of an EgyptAir plane off the coast of New England and the investigation into what happened</i>	30	44	15	10	1
July, 1999: <i>Crash of an American Airlines flight in Arkansas</i>	19	38	25	17	1
July, 1996: <i>The crash of a Paris-bound TWA plane off the coast of New York</i>	69	23	6	2	*
February, 1990: <i>Crash of Colombian airliner near JFK airport in New York</i>	33	39	18	10	0
c. The situation involving Russia and Ukraine					
May 15-18, 2014	24	32	17	26	*
April 3-6, 2014	26	31	18	23	2
March 20-23, 2014: <i>Russia taking control of Ukraine's Crimea region</i>	30	33	14	21	1

¹ In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state." In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

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
March 6-9, 2014: <i>Russia sending troops into Ukraine's Crimea region in response to a new Ukrainian government</i>	28	31	17	23	1
February 27-March 2, 2014: <i>Political violence and a new government in Ukraine</i>	19	28	21	31	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
August 29-31, 2008: <i>The ongoing hostilities between Russia and the Republic of Georgia</i>	22	31	26	20	1
August 22-25, 2008	27	39	22	12	*
August 15-18, 2008	35	35	15	15	*
August 8-11, 2008: <i>Russia sending troops into the Republic of Georgia</i>	17	22	23	37	1
d. The kidnapping of hundreds of Nigerian girls by the extremist group Boko Haram May 15-18, 2014	28	31	20	20	1
e. The House of Representatives creating a committee to investigate the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya May 15-18, 2014	19	19	22	38	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
May 16-19, 2013: <i>Investigations into last fall's attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya</i>	25	21	24	29	1
May 9-12, 2013: <i>Congressional hearings about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya</i>	23	21	24	32	1
January 24-27, 2013: <i>Hillary Clinton testifying about the attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya</i>	21	25	21	31	1
November 15-18, 2012: <i>Investigations into the September attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya</i>	28	26	21	24	2
October 18-21, 2012: <i>Investigations into last month's attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya</i>	31	30	19	20	1
October 12-14, 2012	28	28	19	23	1
October 4-7, 2012: <i>Investigations into the attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya earlier this month</i>	27	24	20	28	1
September 13-16, 2012: <i>Attacks on American embassies and consulates in the Middle East and the killing of the U.S. ambassador in Libya</i>	43	24	15	17	1
f. Racially insensitive comments made by Los Angeles Clippers basketball owner Donald Sterling May 15-18, 2014	21	28	24	26	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 27-30, 2013: <i>TV food personality Paula Deen admitting that she made racially insensitive comments</i>	17	27	24	31	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
April 12-16, 2007: <i>The recent remarks Don Imus made on his radio show about the Rutgers University women's basketball team</i>	24	31	20	24	1
g. The lung disease called "MERS" that has spread from the Middle East May 15-18, 2014	13	23	25	38	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
December 18-21, 2009: <i>Reports about swine flu and the vaccine</i>	25	32	24	18	0
November 20-23, 2009	29	33	21	17	*
November 13-16, 2009	34	31	21	15	*
November 6-9, 2009	32	35	24	10	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	33	33	22	12	*
October 23-26, 2009	43	30	17	9	*
October 16-19, 2009	32	35	18	14	0
October 9-12, 2009	38	35	16	11	*
September 18-21, 2009: <i>Reports about swine flu and the availability of a vaccine</i>	34	31	25	9	*
September 11-14, 2009	30	36	21	12	*
September 3-6, 2009	26	32	25	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	26	33	22	18	*
May 21-24, 2009: <i>Reports about swine flu in the U.S. and elsewhere</i>	30	39	21	11	*
May 8-11, 2009	34	36	19	11	*
May 1-4, 2009: <i>The outbreak of swine flu in different parts of the world</i>	43	37	15	4	1
April 25-27, 2009: <i>Reports of swine flu in Mexico and the U.S.</i>	25	30	19	26	*
October 19-22, 2007: <i>The growing danger of a drug-resistant staph infection in the U.S.</i>	26	31	19	24	0
June 1-4, 2007: <i>An Atlanta man with a dangerous form of tuberculosis who traveled to Europe against the advice of government health officials</i>	24	34	21	19	2
March, 2006: <i>Outbreaks of bird flu in different parts of the world</i>	21	36	24	19	*
November, 2005: <i>The outbreak of bird flu in Asia and Europe</i>	22	37	25	15	1
Late October, 2005	22	33	24	20	1
January, 2004: <i>Reports about a case of mad cow disease in Washington state</i>	29	42	19	9	1
June, 2003: <i>The lung disease called "SARS" that has spread from Asia</i>	28	44	19	8	1
May, 2003	39	39	15	6	1
September, 2002: <i>Cases of West Nile virus spread by mosquitoes</i>	34	36	21	8	1
Early September, 2001: <i>The spread of mad cow disease in Europe</i>	18	34	27	20	1
March 2001: <i>The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease among livestock in Europe</i>	22	33	22	22	1
January, 1998: <i>The outbreak of an Asian flu spread by birds or chickens</i>	19	36	25	20	*

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> No <u>preference</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> Other <u>party</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> DK/Ref	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
May 15-18, 2014	24	27	37	6	1	5	14	16