



**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**For The People & The Press**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Wednesday, April 27, 2011**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**  
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## But Many Older Women Plan to Watch Modest Interest in Run-Up to Royal Wedding

The public has expressed modest interest in the run-up to the royal wedding. And while news coverage of the royal wedding is now ramping up, nearly two-thirds of the public (64%) say they think it has gotten too much coverage.

Just 8% say they followed news about the upcoming wedding of England's Prince William and fiancée Kate Middleton very closely last week. Another 13% say they followed this news fairly closely. Still, more than half (53%) say they did not follow this news *at all* closely, according to the latest News Interest Index survey conducted April 21-25 among 1,001 adults.

A separate content analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ) finds that last week's coverage of the wedding, which is expected to increase, accounted for 3% of the newshole. The numbers were higher for two specific sectors: newspapers and network news (6% each).

Still, Friday's wedding is expected to attract a sizable U.S. audience, particularly among older women. Overall, 19% say they plan to watch the nuptials of the possible future king of England and his bride. Women are more than twice as likely as men (26% vs. 11%) to say they plan to watch Friday's events. And among women age 50 and older, 34% say they plan to watch the ceremony, compared with just 11% of men in this age group.

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### Tracking the Royal Wedding

<i>Following news about royal wedding...</i>	%
Very closely	8
Fairly closely	13
Not too closely	25
Not at all closely	53
Don't know	*
	100
<i>Amount of coverage given to wedding...</i>	
Too much	64
Right amount	25
Too little	4
Don't know	7
	100
<i>Plan to watch?</i>	
Yes	19
No	75
Maybe/Other	5
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 21-25, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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The public's top stories last week were news about the still-struggling economy (20% say they followed this news most closely) and news about the deadly storms that hit the nation's South and Midwest (17% most closely). Just 5% say they followed news about the royal wedding most closely.

No story dominated coverage, according to PEJ. News about the situation in Libya made up 11% of coverage. The debate over the federal deficit and the national debt accounted for 8%, as did the slow-starting 2012 presidential race.

## The Week's News

For much of 2011 so far, major breaking news stories – foreign and domestic – have dominated both coverage and interest. Without such a story last week, the public focused on the latest twists and turns in the economic recovery.

About four-in-ten (41%) say they followed news about the economy very closely last week, while 20% say this was the news they followed most closely. News about the

economy made up 6% of coverage – excluding specific coverage of the debate in Washington over the national deficit. News about the rising price of oil and gas, an important component in perceptions of the economy, accounted for another 3% of coverage.

About three-in-ten (29%) say they very closely followed news about deadly storms in the South and the Midwest last week. This was the top story for 17% and accounted for 3% of the coverage analyzed by PEJ.

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### News Coverage vs. News Interest

	News Interest	News Coverage
Economy	20	6
Deadly storms	17	3
Deficit & national debt	11	8
Libya	11	11
2012 presidential race	6	8
Royal wedding	5	3

News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, April 21-25, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, April 18-24, 2011.

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Three-in-ten (30%) say they very closely followed news about discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and the national debt. Partisans were about equally likely to say they followed this story very closely. About one-in-ten (11%) say this was the news they followed most closely; the deficit debate accounted for 8% of coverage.

About two-in-ten (21%) say they very closely followed news about the current situation and events in Libya, matching the number that said this one week earlier. About one-in-ten (11%) say this was the news they followed most closely. News about Libya made up 11% of the newshole, while news about unrest in the region more generally – not including the situation in Libya – accounted for another 4% of coverage.

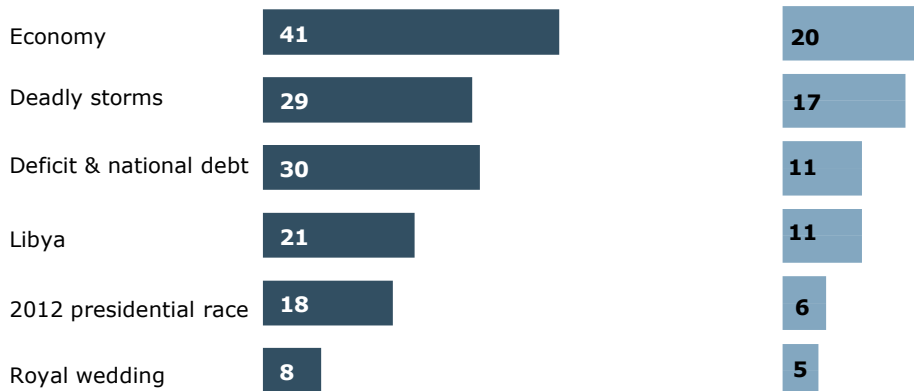
About two-in-ten (18%) say they very closely followed news about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential election. That’s about the same level of interest as the previous week. Just 6% say this was the news they followed most closely. News about the campaign made up 8% of coverage, more than doubling its previous high this year, according to PEJ.

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## News Interest

*% following each story very closely*

*Which one story did you follow most closely?*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Apr. 21-25, 2011.

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Though the numbers are not large, women are much more likely than men to say they followed news about the royal wedding very closely (12% vs. 4%); 15% of women 50 and older say this, as well as 8% of women younger than 50.

## Too Much Wedding Coverage Seen

While nearly two-thirds of the public say news organizations are giving too much coverage to the royal wedding (64%), majorities say the media is giving the right amount to two other international stories: the aftermath of the disasters in Japan (58%) and the situation in Libya (55%).

While they differ in their interest in the story, men and women both say the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton is getting too much coverage; 66% of men and 63% of women say this.

In October 1981, several months after the July wedding of William's parents – Prince Charles and Lady Diana – an ABC News poll asked a slightly different question about a series of recent big events. The survey found that 61% of Americans thought that television news had given too much attention to that royal wedding, while 34% said the media had given the wedding the right amount of attention. Another 2% said the wedding had not been given enough attention.

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### Wedding Coverage Viewed as Excessive; Many Say Deficit Debate Is Undercovered

<i>Amount of coverage by news organizations to each story...</i>	<b>Too much</b>	<b>Right amount</b>	<b>Too little</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Upcoming royal wedding	64	25	4	7=100
Possible candidates for 2012 presidential elections	22	39	31	8=100
Situation in Libya	12	55	24	9=100
Situation in Japan following earthquake and tsunami	11	58	27	5=100
Federal budget and national debt	8	44	41	6=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 21-25, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Looking at the other major foreign stories, about a quarter each say the media is giving too little attention to the situation in Japan (27%) or the situation in Libya (24%). About one-in-ten say news organizations are giving too much coverage to these stories (12% for Libya, 11% for Japan).

A plurality sees the media giving the right amount of coverage to this early stage of the 2012 presidential campaign. About four-in-ten (39%) say the campaign so far has gotten the right amount of coverage, while 31% say the campaign has gotten too little coverage. About four-in-ten each of Republicans, Democrats and independents say the campaign has gotten the right amount of coverage.

By contrast, nearly half of independents (49%) and 45% of Republicans say the debate over the nation's deficit and debt has received too little coverage. That compares with just 30% of Democrats.

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 April 18 to 24, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected April 21 to 25, from a nationally representative sample of 1,001 adults.

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### Independents, Republicans More Likely to Say Deficit Debate Has Gotten Too Little Coverage

<i>Amount of coverage for news about national deficit/debt...</i>	<b>Too much</b>	<b>Right amount</b>	<b>Too little</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>N</b>
	%	%	%	%	
Total	8	44	41	6=100	1,001
Republican	4	45	45	6=100	276
Democratic	12	53	30	4=100	288
Independent	7	39	49	6=100	349

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 21-25, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## 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](http://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 April 21-22 and April 25, 2011, among a national sample of 1,001 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (671 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 330 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 140 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,001	4.0 percentage points
Men	472	5.5 percentage points
18-49	215	8.5 percentage points
50+	240	8.0 percentage points
Women	529	5.5 percentage points
18-49	175	9.0 percentage points
50+	327	7.0 percentage points
Republicans	276	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	288	7.0 percentage points
Independents	349	6.5 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.

## **About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press**

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director  
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research  
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors  
Michael Remez, Senior Writer  
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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**APRIL 21-25, 2011<sup>1</sup> OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,001**

**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>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
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	*
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	*

<sup>1</sup> Interviews were conducted on Thursday, April 21, Friday, April 22, and Monday, April 25, 2011.



## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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	*
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	*

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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
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	*

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1

b. News about possible candidates for the 2012  
presidential elections

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	*
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	*

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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 <sup>2</sup>	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	*
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	*

<sup>2</sup> 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>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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 <sup>3</sup>	24	27	22	26	1
November, 2004 (RVs): <i>2004 Presidential Election</i>	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 <sup>4</sup>	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): <i>2000 Presidential Election</i>	39	44	12	5	*
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): <i>1996 Presidential Election</i>	34	45	15	6	*
October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*
c. The current situation and events in Libya					
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	*

<sup>3</sup> January 19-22, 2007 asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

<sup>4</sup> 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...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
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. Deadly storms in the South and Midwest					
April 21-25, 2011	29	33	18	20	*
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
June 13-16, 2008: <i>A tornado that killed four Boy Scouts at a camp in Iowa</i>	32	35	17	16	*
May 30-June 2, 2008: <i>Midwest</i> <sup>5</sup>	30	33	21	15	1
February 8-11, 2008: <i>South and Midwest</i>	25	42	19	13	1
May 11-14, 2007: <i>Tornadoes and floods in the Midwest</i>	22	35	23	19	1
March 2-5, 2007: <i>South and Midwest</i>	33	38	18	11	*
May, 1999: <i>Oklahoma and Kansas</i>	38	40	15	6	1
e. Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt					
April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1

<sup>5</sup> March 2-5, 2007 through May 30-June 2, 2008 asked about "Violent storms and tornadoes" in each region. May, 1999 asked about "Tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas."

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>	47	26	15	12	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	30	27	21	22	*
March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*
August, 1990	19	30	27	23	1
July, 1990: <i>President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit</i>	30	34	22	14	*
June, 1990: <i>Special meetings between the Bush administration and congressional leaders to find ways to reduce the federal deficit</i>	18	33	28	20	1
April, 1990: <i>The spending and tax proposals made by Congressman Dan Rostenkowski to help reduce the budget deficit</i>	10	22	26	42	*
f. The upcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in England					
April 21-25, 2011	8	13	25	53	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
May 9-12, 2008: <i>The wedding of George Bush's daughter Jenna</i>	4	7	25	63	1

**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.**]

Apr 21-25

2011

20	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
17	Deadly storms in the South and Midwest
	Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt
11	
11	The current situation and events in Libya
6	News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
5	The upcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in England
14	Some other story <b>(VOL.)</b>
15	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**PEW.3 AND PEW.4 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.5 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 coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The upcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton April 21-25, 2011	64	4	25	7
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b> July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>The wedding of Chelsea Clinton</i> <sup>6</sup>	58	8	25	9

**ABC News Poll October, 1981**

Now, I'm going to mention some news events from the recent past. After each tell me whether you think television news gave the event too much attention, not enough attention or about the right amount of attention...

	<u>Too much attention</u>	<u>Not enough attention</u>	<u>About the right amount of attention</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/No opinion</u>
The wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in England <sup>7</sup>	61	2	34	3

	<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
b. The situation in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami April 21-25, 2011	11	27	58	5
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> February 12-15, 2010: <i>The aftermath of a major earthquake in Haiti</i>	19	14	65	2
January 22-25, 2010	19	9	71	1
January 15-18, 2010: <i>The earthquake in Haiti</i> <sup>8</sup>	19	10	69	2
c. Possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections April 21-25, 2011	22	31	39	8
February 10-13, 2011	20	29	40	12
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> June 20-23, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>	44	10	44	2
April 25-28, 2008	51	7	38	4
January 25-28, 2008	36	9	52	3
January 18-21, 2008	33	11	51	5
January 11-14, 2008 <sup>9</sup>	40	11	44	5
January 4-7, 2008	40	11	43	6
December 14-17, 2007	32	16	48	4
November 16-19, 2007	32	13	51	4
July 20-23, 2007	32	18	43	7
June 1-4, 2007	33	12	47	8

<sup>6</sup> Chelsea Clinton married on July 31, 2010, during the field period.

<sup>7</sup> The October, 1981 ABC News poll asked a list of five recent events. Other events not shown here.

<sup>8</sup> Question stood alone and was not asked as part of a list.

<sup>9</sup> From January 4-7, 2008 through January 11-14, 2008 the question was asked as a standalone item and was worded: "Thinking about the presidential campaign... Do you think news organizations are giving too much, too little or the right amount of coverage to the campaign?"



**PEW.5 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
d. The current situation and events in Libya				
April 21-25, 2011	12	24	55	9
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Political unrest in Egypt</i>	30	9	55	5
e. The federal budget deficit and the national debt				
April 21-25, 2011	8	41	44	6
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
April 2-7, 2003: <i>The federal budget deficit</i>	11	42	40	7

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.6 Do you plan to watch the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, or not?

Apr 21-25

2011

19	Yes
75	No
5	Maybe/Not sure <b>(VOL.)</b>
*	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>