

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**February 26-March 1, 2010 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,008**

Q.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>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
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	*

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
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
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

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1
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	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1

b. Congressional hearings about problems with

Toyota vehicles

February 26-March 1, 2010	16	31	27	25	*
February 12-15, 2010	15	29	28	28	1
February 5-8, 2010	21	39	23	17	*
January 29-February 1, 2010: <i>Toyota's recall and temporary halt of sales of many cars and trucks because of problems with sudden acceleration</i>	21	30	22	26	1

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Early October, 2000: <i>The recall of defective Firestone tires</i>	42	34	16	8	*
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**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
c. The death of a killer-whale trainer at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida					
February 26-March 1, 2010	19	34	28	20	*
d. Debate over health care reform					
February 26-March 1, 2010	29	29	19	22	*
February 19-22, 2010	33	28	19	19	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	39	27	16	17	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	32	15	11	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	27	19	18	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	26	20	15	*
December 18-21, 2009	42	27	16	14	*
December 11-14, 2009	42	30	15	14	*
December 4-7, 2009	42	28	15	14	1
November 20-23, 2009	42	29	14	15	*
November 13-16, 2009	38	26	17	17	1
November 6-9, 2009	35	28	15	22	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	32	26	19	23	*
October 23-26, 2009	40	27	16	17	1
October 16-19, 2009	36	28	15	21	*
October 9-12, 2009	37	29	14	19	1
October 2-5, 2009	39	29	16	16	*
September 25-28, 2009	45	31	12	12	0
September 18-21, 2009	44	26	19	11	*
September 11-14, 2009	44	27	14	15	*
September 3-6, 2009	40	26	16	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	40	28	17	14	1
August 21-24, 2009	49	24	12	15	1
August 14-17, 2009	39	31	15	15	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:<sup>1</sup></b>					
August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i>	40	27	17	15	1
July 31-August 3, 2009	47	26	14	13	1
July 24-27, 2009	44	28	15	13	*
July 17-20, 2009	33	31	13	21	2
July 10-13, 2009	24	29	20	27	*
June 26-29, 2009	29	26	20	25	1
June 19-22, 2009	28	28	20	23	*
June 12-15, 2009	29	26	18	26	*
May 15-18, 2009	25	30	20	24	*
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i>	32	41	18	9	*
June, 1994	34	40	19	7	*
May, 1994	37	37	16	9	1
January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*

<sup>1</sup> June 12-15, 2009 through August 7-10, 2009 asked about: "Debate in Washington over health care reform." May 15-18, 2009 asked about: "Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans." March 6-9, 2009 asked about: "Barack Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling the U.S. health care system." September, 1993 through September, 1994 asked about: "The Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals." May, 1993 through August, 1993 asked about: "Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton."

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*
December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1
October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1
September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*
August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i>	27	32	25	15	1
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1
e. The Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada					
February 26-March 1, 2010	23	28	28	21	*
February 19-22, 2010	30	25	19	25	*
February 12-15, 2010: <i>The start of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada</i>	18	23	23	35	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
Aug 22-25, 2008: <i>The Olympic Games in Beijing, China</i>	35	31	19	15	*
August 15-18, 2008	35	31	17	16	1
August 8-11, 2008	24	29	24	23	*
August 1-4, 2008 <sup>2</sup>	13	33	31	23	*
July 25-28, 2008	12	31	29	28	*
April 4-7, 2008	5	18	31	45	1
Early September, 2004: <i>Summer/Athens</i>	25	25	21	29	*
February 12-18, 2002: <i>Winter/Utah</i>	22	30	21	26	1
Early October, 2000: <i>Summer/Sydney</i>	27	28	24	21	*
Early September, 1996: <i>Summer/Atlanta</i>	32	34	20	14	*
July, 1996: <i>Summer/Atlanta</i>	45	30	13	11	1
February, 1992: <i>Winter/France</i>	33	30	19	17	1
f. The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan					
February 26-March 1, 2010	20	33	21	26	*
February 19-22, 2010	24	36	21	19	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	27	17	1
December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	35	33	18	13	*
December 4-7, 2009 <sup>3</sup>	43	33	14	8	1
November 20-23, 2009	29	31	17	22	1
November 13-16, 2009	29	28	20	22	1
November 6-9, 2009	22	35	24	18	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	24	32	21	22	*

<sup>2</sup> For August 1-4, 2008 and April 4-7, 2008 the story was listed as "News about the upcoming Olympic games in Beijing, China." For July 25-28, 2008 the story was listed as "News about China as the Beijing Olympic Games approach."

<sup>3</sup> December 4-7, 2009 asked about "President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan." From November 13-16, 2009, to November 20-23, 2009, the question asked about "The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan." From October 9-12, 2009, through November 6-9, 2009, the question asked about "The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan." September 25-28, 2009 asked about "The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan." February 20-23, 2009 asked about "The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan." From June 20-23, 2008 to October 10-13, 2008 the story was listed as "The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters." All other dates asked about "The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan."

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
October 23-26, 2009	32	29	21	18	*
October 16-19, 2009	25	31	20	24	*
October 9-12, 2009	31	31	21	17	0
September 25-28, 2009	27	40	17	16	*
September 18-21, 2009	26	33	25	16	*
September 11-14, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
September 3-6, 2009	23	33	23	21	0
August 7-10, 2009	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
Late July, 2002	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1

Q.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.**]

Feb 26-Mar 1

2010

25	Debate over health care reform
24	The Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada
13	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
10	The death of a killer-whale trainer at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida
6	The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan
5	Congressional hearings about problems with Toyota vehicles
7	Some other story (VOL.)
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.3 Thinking now about the issue of health care, from what you've seen and heard, do you think a health care reform bill will pass this year or not?

	<u>Yes, will</u>	<u>No, will not</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
February 26-March 1, 2010	34	54	11
February 19-22, 2010	27	62	11
January 29-February 1, 2010	29	60	11
January 22-25, 2010	27	67	5
January 15-18, 2010	57	33	10
January 8-11, 2010	59	29	11
December 18-21, 2009 <sup>4</sup>	61	34	5
December 11-14, 2009	56	38	6
December 4-7, 2009	52	35	14
November 20-23, 2009	52	37	11
November 13-16, 2009	49	37	14
November 6-9, 2009	48	40	11
October 30-November 2, 2009	47	39	14
October 23-26, 2009	53	40	7
October 16-19, 2009	57	38	5
October 9-12, 2009	45	46	9

Q.4 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>(VOL.) Don't know</u>
a. A financial crisis facing the Greek government	15	28	57	*
b. The bipartisan health care summit held Thursday in Washington D.C.	34	36	30	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> December 4-7, 2009: <i>The White House job summit that took place Thursday</i>	11	41	46	1
c. General Motors announcing it will close the Hummer brand	13	47	39	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> May 15-18, 2009: <i>GM and Chrysler announcing plans to close many dealerships around the country</i>	67	27	6	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>General Motors posting \$30 billion in losses for 2008</i>	44	40	16	*
October 10-13, 2008: <i>General Motors stock falling to its lowest level in 58 years</i>	48	38	14	*
October 3-6, 2008: <i>Major U.S. automakers announcing steep drops in auto sales</i>	32	52	16	*
July 3-7, 2008: <i>Ford and General Motors announcing steep drops in auto sales</i>	34	44	22	*
d. The U.S. Senate passing a jobs bill meant to encourage companies to hire workers	20	43	37	*

<sup>4</sup> For December 18-21, 2009 and earlier, the question asked about the chance of a health care reform bill passing "over the next year or not".