

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
March 26-29, 2010 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,018

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. Recent ups and downs in the stock market					
March 26-29, 2010	13	23	23	40	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
October 16-19, 2009: <i>Recent gains in the stock market</i>	15	23	19	43	*
July 24-27, 2009	23	25	24	28	*
March 13-16, 2009	38	31	14	17	0
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Recent major drops in the U.S. stock market</i>	35	31	15	19	*
February 20-23, 2009	31	32	20	17	*
November 21-24, 2008	50	23	15	12	*
October 17-20, 2008: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	54	31	9	6	*
October 10-13, 2008: <i>Recent major drops in the U.S. stock market</i>	59	26	9	6	*
July 3-7, 2008: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	22	29	23	26	*
March 14-17, 2008	25	31	23	21	*
January 25-28, 2008	29	28	19	23	1
August 17-20, 2007	21	24	22	33	*
July 27-30, 2007	15	26	21	37	1
March 2-5, 2007: <i>The recent drop in the U.S. stock market</i>	21	28	25	26	*
Early September, 2002: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	27	30	20	22	1
Late July, 2002	33	33	15	18	1
March, 2001	27	27	18	27	1
Mid-October, 2000	20	26	23	31	1
April, 2000	18	28	23	31	*
Early April, 2000	19	29	20	32	*
March, 2000	23	29	21	26	1
March, 1999	18	29	22	31	*
January, 1999	24	28	19	28	1
Early September, 1998	32	31	20	17	*
Mid-August, 1998	17	23	21	39	*
January, 1998	21	25	23	31	*
Mid-November, 1997	25	36	18	20	1
Early November, 1997: <i>Thinking about last Monday when the stock market dropped, how closely did you follow what was happening?</i>	16	29	22	33	*
September, 1997: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the stock market</i>	14	22	23	40	1
April, 1997	17	21	22	40	*
February, 1996	12	20	25	42	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>
b. Google's decision to stop using computer servers in China to avoid government censorship					
March 26-29, 2010	9	16	25	49	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
January 15-18, 2010: <i>Google announcing that it may leave China</i>	6	16	21	57	1
c. Reports about tensions between Israel and the United States					
March 26-29, 2010	20	27	21	31	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
March 19-22, 2010: <i>Reports about tensions in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians</i>	15	28	27	30	1
June 19-22, 2009: <i>The situation between Israelis and Palestinians</i>	15	26	30	29	1
January 23-26, 2009: <i>Conflict between the Israeli military and Hamas forces in Gaza</i>	31	31	18	20	*
January 16-19, 2009	24	31	22	22	1
January 9-12, 2009	34	35	18	13	0
January 2-4, 2009	28	32	22	18	*
March 7-10, 2008: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	20	33	26	21	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>News about President Bush attending peace talks in Israel</i>	16	30	23	30	1
Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2007: <i>The Middle East Peace Summit in Annapolis, Maryland</i>	11	25	24	39	1
August, 2006: <i>The military conflict between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon</i>	40	34	14	10	2
September, 2003: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	31	36	20	13	*
June, 2003: <i>President Bush's summit meeting with world leaders and with the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority</i>	20	36	24	19	1
Early June, 2003: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	26	40	20	13	1
December, 2002	29	36	22	12	1
Early October, 2002	32	39	20	8	1
June, 2002	38	33	18	10	1
April, 2002	38	37	14	10	1
Early April, 2002	44	33	13	9	1
December, 2001	31	40	19	9	1
Early September, 2001	21	33	25	20	1
April, 2001: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East</i>	22	34	24	19	1
January, 2001: <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	32	29	17	1
Mid-October, 2000: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	30	38	18	13	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>
Early October, 2000: <i>Renewed violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	21	30	27	21	1
July, 2000: <i>The Middle East peace summit at Camp David</i>	15	30	24	31	*
November, 1998: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	18	33	28	19	2
Early October, 1998 (RVs): <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	40	27	12	*
January, 1997: <i>Renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron</i>	12	23	29	35	1
October, 1996: <i>Renewed violence between Israelis & Palestinians on the West Bank and in Jerusalem</i>	17	34	26	23	*
September, 1995: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	11	32	29	27	1
Late September, 1993: <i>The peace accords between Israel and the PLO</i>	23	33	24	19	1
Early September, 1993: <i>Talks between Israel and the PLO about Arab self-rule for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho</i>	19	31	23	26	1
January, 1993: <i>Israel's expulsion of 400 Moslem fundamentalists following the murder of an Israeli soldier in the West Bank</i>	10	25	31	33	1
October, 1991: <i>President Bush's decision to postpone loan guarantees to Israel</i>	15	25	30	29	1
June, 1990: <i>The incident in Gaza in which a deranged Israeli killed seven Palestinians and the West Bank riots that followed</i>	11	28	30	30	1
May, 1988: <i>The conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories</i>	18	37	34	9	2
d. Debate over health care reform					
March 26-29, 2010	49	29	12	10	*
March 19-22, 2010	51	24	11	14	*
March 12-15, 2010	40	31	16	13	*
March 5-8, 2010	42	27	17	15	*
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	*

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 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
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
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: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans</i>	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	*
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. Vandalism and threats directed at Democrats who voted for health care reform					
March 26-29, 2010	26	29	20	25	1
f. Reports about the Vatican's handling of sex-abuse scandals in the Catholic Church					
March 26-29, 2010	17	24	28	30	*
March 19-22, 2010	8	18	31	42	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
June, 2002: <i>Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests</i>	38	36	17	8	1
May, 2002: <i>The Pope and American cardinals meeting in Rome about sexual abuse by Catholic priests</i>	27	33	21	18	1

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
Early April, 2002: <i>Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests</i>	27	34	25	13	1
December, 1993	18	32	31	18	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.**]

March 26-29

2010

66	Debate over health care reform
5	Vandalism and threats directed at Democrats who voted for health care reform
4	Reports about the Vatican's handling of sex-abuse scandals in the Catholic Church
4	Reports about tensions between Israel and the United States
3	Recent ups and downs in the stock market
1	Google's decision to stop using servers in China to avoid government censorship
6	Some other story (VOL.)
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.3 Are you surprised that the health care reform bill was passed, or not surprised?

March 26-29

2010

39	Yes, surprised
58	No, not surprised
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.4 How well do you feel you understand how the new health care reform law will affect you and your family?

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18	Very well
37	Somewhat well
21	Not too well
23	Not at all well
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.5 We're interested in how people are learning about what's in the health care reform law and how it will affect people. Have you gotten information about the health reform law from each of the following, or not? [First...] [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [ASK: "Did you get information about the health care reform law from [ITEM] or not?" AS NECESSARY]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. The news media March 26-29, 2010	81	19	*
b. Family and friends March 26-29, 2010	46	54	*
c. Your employer March 26-29, 2010	7	92	1
d. Your church or religious community March 26-29, 2010	7	93	1