

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**April 23-26, 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					
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	*
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	*

**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>
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
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	*

**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>
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	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
b. An explosion on an off-shore oil rig near the coast of Louisiana					
April 23-26, 2010	21	35	22	23	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
April 9-12, 2010: <i>A deadly explosion in a coal mine in West Virginia</i>	33	36	18	13	*
c. Proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions					
April 23-26, 2010	27	26	20	27	*

**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>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
June 19-22, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plans to expand regulations of financial institutions</i>	27	28	26	19	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plans to expand regulations over financial institutions</i>	36	29	19	16	*
d. News about this year's Congressional elections					
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
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for local and statewide elections</i>	20	35	24	20	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
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 <sup>1</sup>	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	*
e. The cancelation of many flights in Europe because of a volcanic ash cloud					
April 23-26, 2010	23	34	23	20	*
April 16-19, 2010: <i>A volcano in Iceland spreading ash over much of Europe, forcing the cancelation of many flights</i>	27	34	22	17	*

<sup>1</sup> 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."

**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>
f. Reports about the Vatican's handling of sex-abuse scandals in the Catholic Church					
April 23-26, 2010	14	28	29	29	*
March 26-29, 2010	17	24	28	30	*
March 19-22, 2010	8	18	31	42	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
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
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.**]

April 23-26

2010

24	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
20	The cancelation of many flights in Europe because of a volcanic ash cloud
12	An explosion on an off-shore oil rig near the coast of Louisiana
9	Proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions
6	Reports about the Vatican's handling of sex-abuse scandals in the Catholic Church
5	News about this year's Congressional elections
12	Some other story (VOL.)
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.3 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. Discussion of potential Supreme Court nominees to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens				
April 23-26, 2010	19	43	38	0
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
April 9-12, 2010: <i>Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announcing he will retire this summer</i>	28	40	32	*
b. The Securities and Exchange Commission filing a lawsuit alleging that Goldman Sachs committed fraud				
April 23-26, 2010	33	35	31	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
March 19-22, 2008: <i>Recent major problems in the nation's financial markets involving large investment banks</i>	47	33	18	2

**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Don't know</u>
c.	The National Football League suspending Ben Roethlisberger April 23-26, 2010	24	32	44	*
d.	The Food and Drug Administration encouraging food companies to reduce salt in processed foods April 23-26, 2010	20	48	33	*
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
	July 2-5, 2009: <i>An FDA (Food and Drug Administration) panel recommending restrictions on painkillers such as Tylenol and Vicodin because they can cause liver damage</i>	29	38	33	*
	June 19-22, 2009: <i>The FDA advising consumers to stop using Zicam cold remedy because it could damage people's sense of smell</i>	21	35	44	*
Q.4	Based on what you've read or heard, how much of the money the federal government provided to troubled banks and financial institutions has been paid back... All of the money, most of it, only some of it, or none of it?				

April 23-26

2010

2	All of it
17	Most of it
57	Only some of it
13	None
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

Q.5 Based on what you've read or heard, how much of the money the federal government provided to U.S. automakers has been paid back...All of the money, most of it, only some of it, or none of it?

April 23-26

2010

7	All of it
18	Most of it
50	Only some of it
15	None
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>