

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
NEWS INTEREST INDEX
June 17-20, 2010 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,009

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/ Refused |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy | | | | | |
| 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 | * |
| 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 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly <u>closely</u> | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 | * |
| 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 |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly <u>closely</u> | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 | * |
| 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 |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Refused</u> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| b. A major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico | | | | | |
| June 17-20, 2010 | 55 | 32 | 6 | 6 | * |
| June 10-13, 2010 | 55 | 31 | 9 | 5 | * |
| June 3-6, 2010 | 57 | 27 | 9 | 6 | * |
| May 27-30, 2010 | 55 | 26 | 11 | 7 | * |
| May 20-23, 2010: <i>An oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states</i> | 47 | 35 | 11 | 7 | * |
| May 13-16, 2010 | 58 | 29 | 9 | 4 | * |
| May 7-10, 2010 | 46 | 33 | 11 | 10 | * |
| April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion</i> | 44 | 35 | 11 | 10 | * |
| April 23-26, 2010: <i>An explosion on an off-shore oil rig near the coast of Louisiana</i> | 21 | 35 | 22 | 23 | * |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| April 1-5, 2010: <i>President Obama's proposal to allow offshore oil and gas drilling</i> | 20 | 24 | 21 | 33 | 1 |
| July 25-28, 2008: <i>A major oil spill into the Mississippi River</i> | 14 | 19 | 25 | 41 | 1 |
| December 4-8, 2002: <i>The large oil spill polluting the coast of Spain</i> | 15 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 1 |
| May 4-7, 1989: <i>The Alaska oil spill</i> | 52 | 37 | 7 | 4 | -- |
| c. Ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan | | | | | |
| June 17-20, 2010 | 6 | 11 | 21 | 58 | 3 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| July 10-13, 2009: <i>Riots in Western China</i> | 5 | 18 | 27 | 50 | * |
| March 20-24, 2008: <i>Violent protests in Tibet against the Chinese government</i> | 12 | 27 | 26 | 35 | * |
| June 1-4, 2007: <i>Ethnic violence in the Darfur region of Sudan</i> | 12 | 22 | 29 | 36 | 1 |
| December, 2006 | 13 | 23 | 29 | 34 | 1 |
| May, 2006 | 16 | 22 | 27 | 33 | 2 |
| July, 2004: <i>Ethnic violence in Sudan</i> | 14 | 22 | 27 | 35 | 2 |
| January, 1999: <i>Massacre in Kosovo, Serbia</i> | 9 | 21 | 24 | 44 | 2 |
| March, 1998: <i>Ethnic conflict in Kosovo</i> | 5 | 12 | 26 | 55 | 2 |
| May, 1994: <i>Tribal massacre in Rwanda</i> | 12 | 22 | 28 | 36 | 2 |
| February, 1990: <i>Civil unrest and ethnic violence in Soviet Azerbaijan</i> | 13 | 30 | 24 | 33 | 0 |
| d. The current situation and events in Afghanistan | | | | | |
| June 17-20, 2010 | 21 | 30 | 27 | 22 | * |
| May 20-23, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 25 | 20 | * |
| April 9-12, 2010 | 21 | 29 | 27 | 22 | 1 |
| TREND FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| February 19-22, 2010: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i> | 24 | 36 | 21 | 19 | * |
| 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 | * |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly <u>closely</u> | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u> |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| December 4-7, 2009: <i>President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i> | 43 | 33 | 14 | 8 | 1 |
| November 20-23, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i> | 29 | 31 | 17 | 22 | 1 |
| November 13-16, 2009 | 29 | 28 | 20 | 22 | 1 |
| November 6-9, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i> | 22 | 35 | 24 | 18 | * |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 24 | 32 | 21 | 22 | * |
| 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: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i> | 27 | 40 | 17 | 16 | * |
| September 18-21, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i> | 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: <i>The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i> | 27 | 29 | 24 | 19 | 1 |
| January 30-February 2, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i> | 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: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i> | 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: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i> | 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 |
| e. The World Cup soccer tournament in South Africa | | | | | |
| June 17-20, 2010 | 11 | 14 | 22 | 52 | * |
| June, 2006: <i>Soccer's World Cup championship being held in Germany</i> | 8 | 15 | 19 | 57 | 1 |

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

| | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly <u>closely</u> | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u> |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| June, 2002: <i>Soccer's World Cup championship being held in Japan and South Korea</i> | 10 | 16 | 23 | 50 | 1 |
| f. News about drug-related violence in Mexico | | | | | |
| June 17-20, 2010 | 17 | 23 | 24 | 36 | * |
| March 19-22, 2010 | 12 | 21 | 26 | 40 | 1 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| March 27-30, 2009: <i>Hillary Clinton's recent trip to Mexico to discuss drug violence near the border</i> | 14 | 24 | 23 | 39 | * |
| Feb 27-March 2, 2009: <i>News about growing drug-related violence in Mexico</i> | 18 | 28 | 23 | 31 | * |

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.]**

June 17-20

2010

| | |
|----|---|
| 63 | The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico |
| 10 | Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy |
| 6 | The World Cup soccer tournament in South Africa |
| 3 | The current situation and events in Afghanistan |
| 2 | News about drug-related violence in Mexico |
| 1 | Ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan |
| 7 | Some other story (VOL.) |
| 8 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

PEW.3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

PEW.4 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico **[READ]**

| | | -----TREND FOR COMPARISON----- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|
| | | Calif. wildfires Oct 26-29 | MN bridge collapse Aug 3-6 | Hurricane Katrina Sep 8-11 | Hurricane Katrina Sep 6-7 | |
| June 17-20 | | May 7-10 ¹ | | | | |
| <u>2010</u> | | <u>2010</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2005</u> | |
| 17 | Excellent | 23 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 28 |
| 39 | Good | 43 | 47 | 48 | 37 | 37 |
| 27 | Only fair | 18 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 18 |
| 15 | Poor | 12 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 15 |
| 3 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

¹ For May 7-10, 2010, the question asked about "an oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states."

PEW.5 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage or the right amount of coverage to the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico?

| June 17-20 <u>2010</u> | | May 20-23 ² <u>2010</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 19 | Too much coverage | 14 |
| 21 | Too little coverage | 24 |
| 53 | Right amount of coverage | 59 |
| 6 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 3 |

PEW.6 THROUGH PEW.10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

² For May 20-23, 2010, the question asked about "an oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states."