



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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Dubai Ports Fallout

BUSH APPROVAL FALLS TO 33%, CONGRESS EARNS RARE PRAISE

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Dubai Ports Fallout

BUSH APPROVAL FALLS TO 33%, CONGRESS EARNS RARE PRAISE

In the aftermath of the Dubai ports deal, President Bush's approval rating has hit a new low and his image for honesty and effectiveness has been damaged. Yet the public uncharacteristically has good things to say about the role that Congress played in this high-profile Washington controversy.

Most Americans (58%) believe Congress acted appropriately in strenuously opposing the deal, while just 24% say lawmakers made too much of the situation. While there is broad support for the way Congress handled the dispute, more Americans think Democratic leaders showed good judgment on the ports issue than say the same about GOP leaders (by 30%-20%).

The new Pew survey underscores the public's alarm over the prospect that an Arab-owned company could have operated U.S. ports. Fully 41% say they paid very close attention to news about the debate, which is unusually high interest for a Washington story and is only slightly lower than the number tracking Iraq war news very closely (43%). There was broad opposition to the proposed deal from across the political spectrum, including two-to-one disapproval among conservative Republicans (56%-27%).

Bush's overall approval measure stands at 33%, the lowest rating of his presidency. Bush's job performance mark is now about the same as the ratings for Democratic and Republican congressional leaders (34% and 32%, respectively), which showed no improvement in spite of public approval of the congressional response to the ports deal.

Bush Ratings Decline in Wake of Ports Controversy...

	Jan 2005	July 2005	Dec 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006
<i>Bush job as president</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	50	44	38	40	33
Disapprove	43	48	54	52	57
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

	Sept 2003	July 2005	Oct 2005	Mar 2006
<i>Impressions of Bush</i>	%	%	%	%
Strong leader	68	55	51	44
Able to get things done	68	50	51	43
Cares about people	56	48	45	42
Trustworthy	62	49	49	40
Well-informed	59	52	--	38
Good manager	--	--	--	35

While Congress Gets Credit for Strongly Opposing the Deal

<i>Did Congress make too much of ports transfer?</i>	%
Acted appropriately	58
Made too much of it	24
Don't know	<u>18</u>
	100
<i>Who showed better judgment on ports issue?</i>	%
Democratic congressional leaders	30
Republican congressional leaders	20
Both/neither	19
Don't know	<u>31</u>
	100

The president's ratings for handling of several specific issues, particularly terrorism, have also declined sharply. Just 42% now approve of Bush's job in handling terrorist threats, an 11-point drop since February. In January 2005, as Bush was starting his second term, 62% approved of his

handling of terrorist threats.

Bush’s personal image also has weakened noticeably, which is reflected in people’s one-word descriptions of the president. Honesty had been the single trait most closely associated with Bush, but in the current survey “incompetent” is the descriptor used most frequently (See pp. 7-8).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted among 1,405 adults from March 8-12, finds no evidence of a public backlash against foreign commercial and economic ties in the wake of the ports deal. A narrow majority (53%) has a negative view of foreign investors *owning* U.S. companies. But that is significantly less than the 70% expressing the same opinion in 1989, when high-profile acquisitions of U.S. firms by Japanese companies provoked widespread concern.

Moreover, by 53%-36% more Americans view foreign companies *investing* in the United States as a good thing; there are no significant partisan differences on this issue. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) believe free trade is good for the United States, which is largely unchanged since 2000. However, the public continues to have an overwhelmingly negative view of “outsourcing” jobs by American businesses. About seven-in-ten (71%) say the practice is bad because it sends good jobs overseas, while 20% think it is good for the U.S. because it keeps costs down.

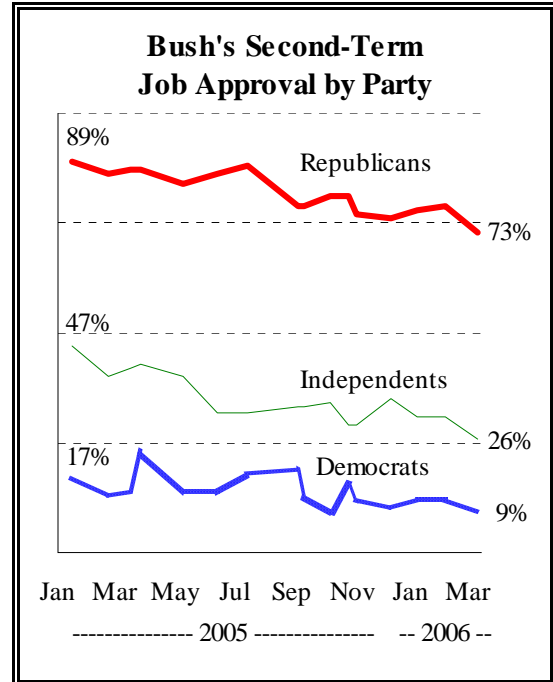
The survey finds that the falloff in the president’s support since the start of his second term includes a significant decline in support among Republicans. Overall, half of Americans approved of Bush’s overall job performance in January 2005, while 43% disapproved. Today, just 33% approve compared with 57% who disapprove.

No Backlash Against Foreign Commercial Ties			
	Jan	Mar	
<i>Foreign investors</i>	<u>1989</u>	<u>2006</u>	
<i>owning US companies</i>	%	%	
Good for the US	18	33	
Bad for the US	70	53	
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Foreign companies</i>		Mar	
<i>investing in US</i>		<u>2006</u>	
Good for the US	--	53	
Bad for the US	--	36	
Don't know	--	<u>11</u>	
		100	
<i>Free trade with</i>	Feb	Mar	
<i>other countries is...</i>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006</u>	
Good for the US	64	66	
Bad for the US	27	23	
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	
	100	100	
	Mar	Mar	
<i>Outsourcing is...</i>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	
Good for the US	22	20	
Bad for the US	69	71	
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	
	100	100	

In January 2005, Bush earned a lofty 89% approval from members of his own party, but that has declined to 73% in the current survey. Among independents, the number approving of Bush's job performance has fallen from 47% in January 2005 to 26% today; and Bush's support among Democrats, already quite low, has fallen by about half since the start of his second term (from 17% to 9%).

Core Supporters Less Satisfied with Bush

A more detailed portrait of the falloff in Bush approval shows significant declines among groups who had been the president's strongest supporters. In January 2005, conservative Republicans approved of the president by a margin of 94% to 3%. While still overwhelmingly supportive, today just 78% of conservative Republicans approve while 16% disapprove. Support from moderate and liberal Republicans has dropped by about the same amount, from 82% to 65% today. Support from moderate and liberal Republicans has dropped by about the same amount, from 82% to 65% today.



Many people who voted for Bush in the 2004 election are more critical of his performance. Currently, 68% of Bush voters approve of his performance, while 22% disapprove. Shortly after the election Bush voters approved of his performance by a margin of 92% to 4%.

White evangelical Christians were solidly behind the president throughout his first term in office, but that support has waned over the past 15 months. Currently, just 54% of white evangelicals approve of the president's job in office, while 36% disapprove. Bush's support has also dropped among people who attend church each week or more frequently. According to post-election exit polls conducted

Bush Support Weakening Across Base

	Jan 2005	Jul 2005	Oct 2005	Mar 2006	Change from 1/05
<i>Job Approval</i>	%	%	%	%	
Total	50	44	38	33	-17
Republicans	89	87	81	73	-16
Conservative	94	91	87	78	-16
Moderate/Liberal	82	81	71	65	-17
Bush voter in 2004	92	86	81	68	-24
Favor Iraq war	81	74	70	58	-23
White Evangelical	72	67	64	54	-18
Attend church often*	60	52	47	42	-18
Income \$75k+	56	51	43	41	-15
South	54	48	42	34	-20
Rural	58	50	43	36	-22
White	56	49	44	37	-19
Men	60	51	44	39	-21
Women	53	47	44	35	-18

*At least weekly

by the National Election Pool, these voters backed Bush over Kerry by a 61%-38% margin. But today more disapprove (46%) than approve (42%) of his performance.

Even among people who say that the war in Iraq was the right decision, support for the president has declined. Today, 30% of people who believe that the use of force in Iraq was the right decision *disapprove* of the president's overall job performance, up from just 14% in January 2005. Job approval among Iraq war supporters has fallen from 81% to 58% over this time span.

Congress Credited for Ports Stance...

Congress has drawn bipartisan praise from the American public for its response to the possible transfer of U.S. port operations to a United Arab Emirates company. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats (68%), and roughly half each of independents (53%) and Republicans (49%) said Congress acted appropriately, though a third of Republicans felt too much was made of the issue.

Democratic leaders fared somewhat better than Republicans in this debate, based mostly on the support of their own partisans. Overall, three-in-ten say they thought Democratic leaders showed better judgment on this issue, while 20% favored the Republican leaders. Only 38% of Republicans favored the way GOP leaders handled the issue, compared with 54% of Democrats who favored the job their leaders did. Independents were more divided (29% favored how Democratic leaders handled the issue, 20% Republicans), while half saw no difference between the parties' performance.

Congressional Response to Ports Deal OK, But Many Not Satisfied Yet				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
<i>Congress's response</i>				
Was appropriate	58	49	68	53
Made too much of it	24	33	18	27
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Who showed better judgment?</i>				
Democratic leaders	30	7	54	29
Republican leaders	20	38	9	20
Both (Vol.)	10	6	13	11
Neither (Vol.)	9	14	3	11
Don't know	<u>31</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>29</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Transfer of port operations to a U.S. company</i>				
Satisfactory solution	46	57	39	42
Not satisfactory	38	26	42	45
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	(795)	(233)	(260)	(239)
All figures based on interviewing conducted March 10-12, after DP World announced it would transfer operations to a U.S. entity.				

...But No Boost in Approval

While members of Congress may have averted widespread criticism in this case, there is no evidence that their stand against the Dubai ports deal improved either party's public image. Comparable percentages say they approve of the job Republican leaders (32%) and Democratic leaders (34%) are doing – both figures are unchanged from January and have not moved significantly in more than six months.

While DP World, the United Arab Emirates company involved in the deal, agreed on March 9 to transfer all operations at U.S. ports to an American entity, 38% of Americans do not think that this is a satisfactory solution to the issue, and another 16% aren't sure how they feel about it. This dissatisfaction is strongest among the three-quarters of Americans who opposed the deal originally, 44% of whom are not satisfied with the current solution, while 45% are satisfied. Among the minority who approved of the original deal, most see this as a satisfactory solution by a 66%-27% margin.

Will This Hurt America's Standing?

Despite public support for scuttling the ports deal, most Americans are either very (24%) or somewhat (34%) concerned that America may have angered important allies in the Middle East by opposing this deal. This concern crosses party lines, with Democrats, Republicans and independents expressing comparable levels of concern.

This consideration was clearly a factor for the minority of Americans who supported allowing the original deal to go through. Though only 14% took this position, they are twice as likely as the majority who opposed the deal to be very concerned about how this will affect U.S. interests in the Middle East, and 77% are at least somewhat concerned in this regard.

New Tensions With U.S. Allies in Mideast						
<i>America may have angered important allies in Mideast</i>	<u>Total</u>	<i>Party ID</i>			<i>Original ports deal</i>	
		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>App</u>	<u>Disapp</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	24	18	25	26	40	21
Somewhat concerned	34	39	35	32	37	33
Not too concerned	19	24	19	14	11	21
Not at all concerned	19	15	17	25	12	22
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
NET very or somewhat concerned	58	57	60	58	77	54
Number of cases	(795)	(233)	(260)	(239)	(119)	(577)
All figures based on interviewing conducted March 10-12, after DP World announced it would transfer operations to a U.S. entity.						

Foreign Ownership vs. Foreign Investment

While Americans tend to think that it is bad for America when investors from other countries own companies here, they tend to take a favorable view of foreign investments in the United States. Overall, more see foreign ownership as bad for the country by a 53% to 33% margin, while more see foreign investments in the U.S. as good for the country by a comparable 53% to 36% margin.

Younger Americans and those in higher-income households tend to be more supportive of both foreign ownership and investment, but age and income gaps are the greatest with respect to

views of investment. People under age 30 see investment in the U.S. as good by a 71% to 26% margin, but half believe foreign ownership has a negative impact. By comparison, majorities of those ages 65 and older tend to see both foreign ownership (57%) and foreign investment (53%) as bad for the U.S.

Americans in households earning \$75,000 or more annually are the most supportive of foreign ownership and investment – 72% say the latter is good for the country. But Americans in low-earning households tend to say both are bad for the country.

By comparison, there is almost no partisan divide on issues of foreign ownership and investment. A slim majority of both Republicans and Democrats see ownership as bad for the country, while a slim majority of both say that investment is good.

Foreign Investment Good, Foreign Ownership Bad					
	<i>Owning</i>		<i>Investing</i>		<i>Diff</i>
	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	33	53	53	36	+20
18-29	36	50	71	26	+35
30-49	39	50	58	30	+19
50-64	29	60	43	43	+14
65+	25	57	31	53	+6
\$75,000+	44	49	72	21	+28
\$30-\$74,999	32	54	54	35	+22
Under \$30,000	24	63	35	53	+11
Republican	39	51	54	35	+15
Democrat	33	52	52	38	+19
Independent	31	60	52	36	+21

Form 1 respondents (N=710) asked about “investors from other countries owning companies in the U.S.”
 Form 2 respondents (N=695) asked about “companies in other countries investing in the U.S.”

Democratic Advantage on Foreign Investment

While Republicans and Democrats around the country hold similar views on the costs and benefits of foreign ownership and investment, the public rates the Democratic Party as stronger on the issue, particularly among those who see these as bad for the country. Among the 53% of Americans who say it is bad for the U.S. when investors from other countries own companies here, more favor the Democrats to handle this issue than Republicans by two-to-one (43% to 22%). The Democrats are also viewed as better able to address foreign investment in the United States.

Critics of Foreign Ownership Favor Democrats			
<i>Who can best handle...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<i>Own./Invest. is...</i>	
		<u>Good for US</u>	<u>Bad for US</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Foreign ownership</i>			
Democratic Party	38	33	43
Republican Party	24	30	22
Mixed/DK	<u>39</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>35</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Foreign investment</i>			
Democratic Party	41	44	41
Republican Party	31	35	27
Mixed/DK	<u>28</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>32</u>
	100	100	100

Bush: Personal Impressions

The public's personal impressions of Bush's trustworthiness, effectiveness and leadership have all declined sharply since last fall. In this regard, a significantly higher percentage of Americans believe that Bush is "out of touch" with what is going on with the government than said that about former President Reagan during his second term, in August 1987. Fully 56% say that about Bush now, compared with 47% who expressed that view of Reagan nearly 20 years ago. At that time, Reagan's image had been tarnished by the Iran-contra affair, though his approval rating was much higher than Bush's is currently (50% in September 1987 vs. 33% today).

	<i>Reagan</i> Aug <u>1987</u>	<i>Bush</i> Mar <u>2006</u>
<i>President is ...</i>	%	%
In touch w/ government	51	36
Out of touch	47	56
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
	101	100

1987 Data from ABC/Washington Post survey

In a Word...Incompetent

President Bush's declining image also is reflected in the single-word descriptions people use to describe their impression of the president. Three years ago, positive one-word descriptions of Bush far outnumbered negative ones. Over the past two years, the positive-negative balance has been roughly equal. But the one-word characterizations have turned decidedly negative since last July. Currently, 48% use a negative word to describe Bush compared with just 28% who use a positive term, and 10% who use neutral language.

	May <u>2003</u>	Feb <u>2004</u>	May <u>2004</u>	Feb <u>2005</u>	Jul <u>2005</u>	Mar <u>2006</u>
<i>One-word description</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Positive <i>*Good, Christian, Honest</i>	52	36	33	34	36	28
Negative <i>*Incompetent, Idiot, Liar</i>	27	36	37	42	40	48
Neutral <i>*OK, President, Conservative</i>	9	13	13	11	12	10
No answer/DK	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

*Current top three words in each category

The changing impressions of the president can best be viewed by tracking over time how often words come up in these top-of-the-mind associations. Until now, the most frequently offered word to describe the president was "honest," but this comes up far less often today than in the past. Other positive traits such as "integrity" are also cited less, and virtually no respondent used

superlatives such as “excellent” or “great” – terms that came up fairly often in previous surveys.

The single word most frequently associated with George W. Bush today is “incompetent,” and close behind are two other increasingly mentioned descriptors: “idiot” and “liar.” All three are mentioned far more often today than a year ago.

Fewer See Bush as Conservative

Public perceptions of the president’s ideological leanings have shifted throughout his presidency. Currently, a 48% plurality view Bush as conservative, down from 55% last October. This marks the first time since shortly after Bush took office in 2001 that fewer than half have described him as conservative.

Just 45% of self-described conservatives now view Bush as a conservative, down from 59% in October. The change in views of Bush’s ideology has been less pronounced among moderates and liberals. Liberals continue to overwhelmingly describe Bush as a conservative – 65% express that view now, about the same as in October (68%).

Similarly, fewer Americans now say that Bush listens to conservative members of his party, rather than moderates, when it comes to national policy. Currently, a narrow majority (51%) says Bush listens mostly to conservative Republicans, down from 57% last October. Just 39% of self-described conservatives now say that Bush listens more to conservative members of the GOP; in October, 51% of conservatives said Bush mostly listened to conservative members of the Republican Party.

One-Word Descriptions of President Bush		
<u>February 2005</u>	<u>July 2005</u>	<u>March 2006</u>
38 Honest	31 Honest	29 Incompetent
20 Good	26 Incompetent	23 Good
15 Integrity	24 Arrogant	21 Idiot
15 Arrogant	18 Good	17 Liar
14 Incompetent	18 Integrity	14 Christian
13 Leader	15 Determined	14 Honest
11 Fair	13 Liar	13 Arrogant
11 Idiot	12 Stupid	13 Strong
9 Strong	11 Idiot	10 Integrity
9 Liar	11 Strong	8 Ass
8 Poor	10 Leader	8 Leader
8 Excellent	9 Okay	7 Jerk
8 Trustworthy	9 Christian	7 Okay
8 Dishonest	9 Great	7 Sincere
7 Conservative	8 Fair	7 Stupid
7 Great	8 Sincere	6 President
7 Sucks	7 Aggressive	6 Selfish
7 Christian	7 Honorable	6 Untrustworthy
7 Honorable	(N=751)	(N=710)
(N=761)		

Figures show the actual number of respondents who offered each response; these are NOT percentages.

Changing Impressions of Bush’s Ideology				
	<u>Feb 2001</u>	<u>Sept 2003</u>	<u>Oct 2005</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>
	%	%	%	%
Liberal	7	9	9	10
Middle of the road	39	34	27	31
Conservative	44	51	55	48
Neither/DK	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

Ports Debate Draws Broad Attention

News about the situation in Iraq continues to top the public’s news interest. Since the war began nearly three years ago, only a handful of major stories – such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year – have drawn greater public interest than the war.

But this month, nearly as many Americans said they tracked news of the Dubai ports deal very closely as followed war news very closely (41% vs. 43%). This issue also ranks fairly high in news interest among leading political stories over the past two decades. And roughly four times as many Americans paid very close attention to the debate over the ports transfer than closely tracked the proposed sale of the oil company Unocal to a Chinese company last July (11% very closely).

Reports on rebuilding efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina also continue to attract considerable attention; 36% followed this news very closely, about the same as in December (39%). Roughly three-in-ten (31%) say they very closely followed news that Vice President Cheney accidentally shot and wounded a fellow hunter. The incident occurred Feb. 11, approximately a month before the field period for this survey.

Other news stories have drawn far less public interest: 24% very closely followed news on Iran’s nuclear program; 21% each paid very close attention to news on bird flu outbreaks and the South Dakota law banning most abortions; and 16% say they tracked news of lobbyists’ financial ties with members of Congress very closely.

Top News Stories	
	Following very closely %
Situation in Iraq	43
Debate over ports transfer	41
Katrina rebuilding	36
Cheney hunting accident	31
Iran’s nuclear program	24
Bird flu outbreaks	21
South Dakota abortion ban	21
Lobbyists’ ties w/ Congress	16

News Interest in Major Political Stories	
	%
Court ruling on Pledge of Allegiance <i>July 2002</i>	52
Court ruling on flag burning <i>July 1989</i>	51
Clinton health care plan* <i>Sept 1993</i>	49
Court ruling on abortion (Webster) <i>July 1989</i>	47
Lifting ban on gays in military* <i>March 1993</i>	45
Federal government shutdown <i>Jan 1996</i>	42
Debate over ports transfer <i>March 2006</i>	41
Bush plan to deal with drug crisis <i>Sept 1989</i>	40
Elian Gonzales debate* <i>Jan 2000</i>	39
Passage of NAFTA* <i>Dec 1993</i>	39
Bush’s Social Security plan* <i>March 2005</i>	38
Bush authorizing wiretaps* <i>Feb 2006</i>	37
Oliver North sentencing <i>July 1989</i>	37
Passage of Brady Bill <i>Dec 1993</i>	37
Gingrich decision to step down <i>Nov 1998</i>	36
Clinton/Lewinsky investigation* <i>Sept 1998</i>	36
Assault weapons ban <i>May 1994</i>	36
Congress check-bouncing scandal <i>April 1992</i>	36
Percent following each ‘very closely’	
* Interest in these stories was tracked over many months - highest reported interest shown here.	

There is a gender gap in interest toward several of the month's news stories. More men than women followed the ports debate and Iraq war news very closely; more women than men closely tracked news on the South Dakota abortion law, and paid somewhat more attention to hurricane rebuilding and bird flu.

Men & Women Have Different News Interests

% <u>Men</u>	% <u>Women</u>
47 Iraq	39 Katrina
45 Ports	39 Iraq
34 Katrina	38 Ports
32 Cheney	30 Cheney
29 Iran	25 SD/abortion
20 Corruption	23 Bird flu
19 Bird flu	20 Iran
16 SD/abortion	12 Corruption

Percent following each very closely

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,405 adults, 18 years of age or older, from March 8-12, 2006. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on form 1 (N=710) and form 2 (N=695) the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

For results based on March 10-12 only (P.1 through P.4) the sample size is 795 and the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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 CENTER

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 six 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
- Jodie Allen, Senior Editor
- Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
- Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2006 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
March 8-12, 2006
N = 1,405

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>App- rove</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		<u>App- rove</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
2005				<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	2002			
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
2004				Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	2001			
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	August, 2001	50	32	18=100
2003				July, 2001	51	32	17=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100				
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100				
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:

Q.2F1 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of George W. Bush. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).**

<u>March 2006*</u>	<u>July 2005</u>	<u>February 2005</u>	<u>May 2004</u>	<u>Early Feb 2004¹</u>	<u>May 2003</u>
29 Incompetent	31 Honest	38 Honest	30 Honest	27 Honest	29 Honest
23 Good	26 Incompetent	20 Good	29 Good	24 Fair	21 Good
21 Idiot	24 Arrogant	15 Integrity	26 Incompetent	24 Leader	20 Arrogant
17 Liar	18 Good	15 Arrogant	26 Leader	21 Liar	16 Leader
14 Christian	18 Integrity	14 Incompetent	24 Arrogant	17 Arrogant	13 Great
14 Honest	15 Determined	13 Leader	16 Strong	14 Strong	12 Confident
13 Arrogant	13 Liar	11 Fair	15 Integrity	13 Excellent	12 Courageous
13 Strong	12 Stupid	11 Idiot	13 Idiot	13 Good	11 Aggressive
10 Integrity	11 Idiot	9 Strong	11 Christian	12 Christian	11 Christian
8 Ass	11 Strong	9 Liar	10 Determined	12 Integrity	11 Determined
8 Leader	10 Leader	8 Excellent	10 Stupid	9 Stupid	11 Integrity
7 Jerk	9 Christian	8 Trustworthy	9 Liar	9 Incompetent	10 Patriot/Patriotic
7 OK	9 Great	8 Dishonest	8 Trustworthy	8 Dishonest	9 Cowboy
7 Sincere	9 Okay	8 Poor	7 Aggressive	7 Confident	8 Competent
7 Stupid	8 Fair	7 Conservative	7 Committed	7 Determined	8 Decisive
6 President	8 Sincere	7 Great	7 Dishonest	7 Idiot	8 Idiot
6 Selfish	7 Aggressive	7 Sucks	7 Okay	7 Patriotic	8 President
6 Untrustworthy	7 Honorable	7 Christian	6 Dedicated	7 Ass	8 Strong
5 Bad	6 Inept	7 Honorable	6 Fair	6 Character	7 Adequate
5 Conservative	5 Adequate	6 Dedicated	6 President	6 Poor	7 Excellent
5 Consistent	5 Ass	6 Determined	6 War/warrior	6 Selfish	7 Fair
5 Dedicated	4 Persistent	6 President	5 Brave	(N=748)	(N=602)
5 Determined	4 Egotistical	6 Selfish	5 Confident		
5 Dumb	4 Greedy	5 Trying	5 Courageous		
5 Egotistical	4 Jerk	5 Warmonger	5 Decisive		
5 Stubborn	4 Patriotic	5 Ignorant	5 Dumb		
4 Confident	4 Terrible	5 Terrible	5 Excellent		
4 Disappointment	(N=751)	4 Diligent	5 Great		
4 Dishonest		4 Consistent	5 Honorable		
4 Great		4 Sincere	5 Straight-forward		
4 Honorable		4 Ineffective	(N=897)		
4 Steadfast		4 Inept			
4 Tough		(N=761)			

* The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

¹ In Early February 2004, these “one word” questions were not asked toward the beginning of the questionnaire. For George W. Bush, trends from March 1999, September 1999 and March 2000 are also available.

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

More specifically...

Q.3F2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F2	The economy	34	57	9=100
	February, 2006	38	55	7=100
	December, 2005	38	55	7=100
	Late October, 2005	36	56	8=100
	Early September, 2005	33	60	7=100
	July, 2005	38	53	9=100
	Mid-May, 2005	35	57	8=100
	February, 2005	43	50	7=100
	January, 2005	45	50	5=100
	Mid-October, 2004	38	55	7=100
	Early September, 2004	44	49	7=100
	August, 2004	42	52	6=100
	July, 2004	42	52	6=100
	June, 2004	43	50	7=100
	Early April, 2004	39	53	8=100
	Mid-January, 2004	47	47	6=100
	September, 2003	43	48	9=100
	February, 2003	43	48	9=100
	January, 2003	47	45	8=100
	Early October, 2002	49	40	11=100
	June, 2002	53	36	11=100
	January, 2002	60	28	12=100
	Early September, 2001	47	44	9=100
	February, 2001	50	22	28=100
b.F2	The situation in Iraq	30	65	5=100
	February, 2006	38	57	5=100
	December, 2005	36	58	6=100
	Late October, 2005	37	57	6=100
	Early September, 2005	34	58	8=100
	July, 2005	35	57	8=100
	Mid-May, 2005	37	56	7=100
	February, 2005	40	53	7=100
	January, 2005	45	50	5=100
	Mid-October, 2004	37	56	7=100
	Early September, 2004	47	45	8=100
	August, 2004	43	52	5=100
	July, 2004	42	53	5=100
	June, 2004	42	51	7=100
	Late April, 2004	44	48	8=100
	Early April, 2004	40	53	7=100
	Mid-January, 2004	59	37	4=100
	September, 2003	52	40	8=100
	April 10-16, 2003 ²	77	17	6=100
	April 8-9, 2003	71	23	6=100

Q.3F2 CONTINUED...

² From March to April 2003 the item was worded: "... dealing with the war in Iraq?" The 1991 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	--April 9, 2003	76	18	6=100
	--April 8, 2003	65	28	7=100
	April 2-7, 2003	73	21	6=100
	March 28-April 1, 2003	69	26	5=100
	March 25-27, 2003	73	23	4=100
	March 23-24, 2003	72	22	6=100
	March 20-22, 2003	70	23	7=100
	February, 2003	56	37	7=100
	January, 2003	56	36	8=100
	Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100
c.F2	Terrorist threats	42	49	9=100
	February, 2006	53	40	7=100
	December, 2005	49	44	7=100
	Late October, 2005	52	40	8=100
	Early September, 2005	49	41	10=100
	July, 2005	49	40	11=100
	Mid-May, 2005	57	35	8=100
	February, 2005	59	34	7=100
	January, 2005	62	33	5=100
	Mid-October, 2004	49	40	11=100
	Early September, 2004	62	32	6=100
	August, 2004	58	37	5=100
	July, 2004	54	40	6=100
	June, 2004	56	35	9=100
	Late April, 2004	55	36	9=100
	Early April, 2004	53	38	9=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : December, 2003	65	33	2=100
	September, 2003	64	28	8=100
	February, 2003	67	25	8=100
	January, 2003	69	23	8=100
	Early October, 2002	71	22	7=100
	June, 2002	74	18	8=100
	Mid-September, 2001 ³	85	6	9=100
	Clinton : Early September, 1998	72	20	8=100
d.F2	Health care policy	26	57	17=100
	February, 2006	28	57	15=100
	February, 2005	36	51	13=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : November, 2004	37	57	6=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : January, 2004	43	49	8=100
	September, 2003	33	46	21=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : January, 2003	41	44	15=100
	June, 2002	37	46	17=100
	Clinton : July, 1994	39	54	7=100
	Bush, Sr : May, 1990	30	59	11=100

³ In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded: "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington." In Early September 1998 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

Q.3F2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
e.F2 The impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast September, 2005	32 38	58 52	10=100 10=100

ROTATE Q.4 AND Q.5

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
February, 2006	32	50	18=100	January, 1998	43	41	16=100
January, 2006	33	52	15=100	November, 1997	41	43	16=100
Early November, 2005	33	50	17=100	August, 1997	42	44	14=100
Early October, 2005	32	52	16=100	June, 1997	33	50	17=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15=100	May, 1997	40	44	16=100
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15=100	April, 1997	40	44	16=100
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17=100	February, 1997	44	42	14=100
Early February, 2004	41	42	17=100	January, 1997	38	47	15=100
January, 2003	48	37	15=100	November, 1996	40	43	17=100
June, 2002	50	34	16=100	July, 1996	38	48	14=100
May, 2002	49	34	17=100	June, 1996	36	50	14=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100	April, 1996	39	46	15=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100	March, 1996	35	51	14=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100	February, 1996	33	53	14=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100	January, 1996	36	54	10=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100	October, 1995	36	51	13=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100	September, 1995	36	50	14=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100	August, 1995	38	45	17=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100	June, 1995	41	45	14=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100	April, 1995	44	43	13=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100	March, 1995	43	39	18=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100	December, 1994	52	28	20=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100				
October, 1999	34	50	16=100				
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100				
August, 1999	40	44	16=100				
July, 1999	36	45	19=100				
June, 1999	37	46	17=100				
May, 1999	38	44	18=100				
March, 1999	38	47	15=100				
February, 1999	37	51	12=100				
January, 1999	38	50	12=100				
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100				
November, 1998	41	48	11=100				
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100				
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100				
June, 1998	42	38	20=100				
May, 1998	40	41	19=100				
April, 1998	41	40	19=100				
March, 1998	43	39	18=100				

Q.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
March, 2006	34	46	20=100
January, 2006	34	48	18=100
Early November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:

Q.6F1 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of George W. Bush. (First,) does George W. Bush impress you as... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

			Early				
			Oct	July	Sep	Feb	Oct
			<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1999</u>
a.F1	40	Trustworthy, or	49	49	62	60	63
	52	NOT trustworthy	46	46	32	28	29
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	2	2	4	2
	<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100		100	100	100	100	100

			Early			
			Oct	July	Sep	Feb
			<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>
b.F1	43	Able to get things done, or	51	50	68	60
	50	NOT able to get things done	43	42	26	18
	3	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	4	3	7
	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>
	100		100	100	100	100

			July	Sep	Feb
			<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>
c.F1	38	Well informed, or	52	59	62
	54	NOT well informed	42	36	27
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	*	4
	<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
	100		100	100	100

Q.6F1 CONTINUED...

			Early Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Sep <u>2003</u>	April <u>2001</u>	Feb <u>2001</u>
d.F1	10	Liberal,	9	9	9	8	7
	31	Middle of the road or	27	26	34	37	39
	48	Conservative	55	57	51	46	44
	3	Neither particularly (VOL)	3	2	1	3	2
	8	Don't know/Refused	6	6	5	6	8
	100		100	100	100	100	100

			Early Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Sep <u>2003</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>
e.F1	42	Cares about people like me, or	45	48	56	54
	51	DOESN'T care about people like me	51	49	38	37
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)	1	1	2	2
	5	Don't know/Refused	3	2	4	7
	100		100	100	100	100

			Early Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Sep <u>2003</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>
f.F1	44	A strong leader, or	51	55	68	68
	51	NOT a strong leader	46	41	29	24
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	2	1	3
	3	Don't know/Refused	1	2	2	5
	100		100	100	100	100

g.F1	35	A good manager, or
	57	NOT a good manager
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)
	7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
	100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

Q.7F2 Would you describe George W. Bush as being in touch or as being out of touch with what is going on in the government?

		<i>Reagan</i> <i>ABC News/Wash Post</i> <u>Aug 1987</u>
36	In touch	51
56	Out of touch	47
8	Don't know/Refused	3
100		100

Q.8F2 When it comes to national policy, who do you think George W. Bush is listening to more...
[READ, ROTATE]

		Early Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Jan <u>2005</u>	May <u>2003</u>	Jan <u>2003</u>	Jan <u>2002</u>	Jan <u>2001</u>
51	Conservative members of his party OR	57	53	54	49	41	38	48
25	Moderate members of his party	27	23	27	32	35	40	37
24	Don't know/Refused	16	24	19	19	24	22	15
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Thinking about the news for a moment...

Q.9F2 What is the FIRST news story that comes to mind when you think about what's been in the news lately?
[OPEN END. RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY]

FIRST STORY MENTIONED:		Feb	Jan	Early
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
25	Iraq war/troop casualties	25	25	19
15	Dubai Ports World deal/Arab company controlling ports	--	--	--
10	Recent hurricanes and response	4	5	14
8	Crime (general)	7	1	3
3	Iran/Nuclear program	1	--	--
2	Other local news	5	*	2
2	Terrorism (general)	2	3	--
2	Dana Reeve's death	--	--	--
2	Weather/natural disasters (non-hurricane)	1	4	1
2	Gas prices/Energy costs/Oil	3	1	1
1	Sports (general)	2	*	--
1	Government wiretapping/spying on citizens	2	1	--
1	President Bush's trip to Afghanistan/India	--	--	--
1	Vice President Cheney's shooting incident	--	--	--
1	Slobodan Milosevic's death	--	--	--
1	Economy (general)	1	--	--
1	Alabama church fires	--	--	--
1	Immigration/Border issues	1	*	1
*	Bird flu	*	0	1
*	Business (general)	1	--	--
9	All others	32	50	22
<u>14</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>36</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

		Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all	DK/
		<u>Closely</u>	<u>Closely</u>	<u>Closely</u>	<u>Closely</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.	News about the current situation in Iraq	43	38	12	6	1=100
	February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1=100
	January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1=100
	December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1=100
	Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*=100
	Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
	Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
	July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
	June, 2005	41	39	12	7	1=100
	Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
	Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
	February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
	January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
	December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
	Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
	Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100

Q.10 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
April 11-16, 2003 ⁴	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 ⁵	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100
b. The debate over an Arab-owned company possibly running U.S. ports ⁶	41	27	13	18	1=100
c. Rebuilding efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina	36	42	14	7	1=100
December, 2005	39	40	15	5	1=100
Early October, 2005 <i>Impact of Katrina and Rita</i>	73	21	4	2	*=100
Early September, 2005 <i>Impact of Katrina</i>	70	21	7	2	*=100
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:					
d.F1 Vice President Dick Cheney's hunting accident	31	32	20	16	1=100
e.F1 Reports about the financial links between lobbyists and members of Congress	16	20	30	32	2=100
February, 2006	20	24	25	30	1=100
January, 2006 <i>Abramoff</i> ⁷	18	20	26	34	2=100

⁴ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

⁵ From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

⁶ From March 8-9 the story was worded "The possibility that an Arab-owned company might be allowed to run U.S. ports."

⁷ In January 2006 the story was listed as "Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff admitting he bribed members of Congress."

Q.10 CONTINUED...

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:						
f.F2	Outbreaks of bird flu in different parts of the world	21	36	24	19	*=100
	Late Oct, 2005 <i>Outbreak of bird flu in Asia and Europe</i>	22	33	24	20	1=100
	January, 1998 <i>Outbreak of an Asian flu</i>	19	36	25	20	*=100
g.F2	Iran's nuclear research program	24	31	22	22	1=100
ASK ALL:						
h.	South Dakota's new law banning all abortions unless the mother's life is in danger	21	32	20	26	1=100

QUESTIONS 11-13 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.14 As you may know, recently a company from the United Arab Emirates made a deal to run six shipping ports in the United States. Would you approve or disapprove of the government allowing this company to operate U.S. ports?⁸

14 Approve
73 Disapprove
13 Don't know/Refused
100

NO QUESTIONS 15 THROUGH 17**ASKED MARCH 10-12 ONLY [N=795]:**

P.1 On Thursday, this company said it would transfer all operations of U.S. ports to an American company. In your view, is this a satisfactory solution to the issue, or not?

46 Satisfactory
38 Not satisfactory
16 Don't know/Refused
100

ASKED MARCH 10-12 ONLY [N=795]:

P.2 Do you think that Congress made too much of this situation, or was Congress' response appropriate?

24 Made too much of it
58 Response was appropriate
18 Don't know/Refused
100

⁸ From March 8-9 the question was worded "As you may know, a company from the United Arab Emirates has made a deal to run six shipping ports in the United States. Do you..."

ASKED MARCH 10-12 ONLY [N=795]:

P.3 Who in Congress do you think showed better judgment on this issue? [**READ AND ROTATE**]

20	Republican leaders in Congress, or
30	Democratic leaders in Congress
10	Both [VOL. DO NOT READ]
9	Neither [VOL. DO NOT READ]
<u>31</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]
100	

ASKED MARCH 10-12 ONLY [N=795]:

P.4 How concerned are you, if at all, that America may have angered important allies in the Middle East by opposing this deal? [**READ**]

24	Very concerned
34	Somewhat concerned
19	Not too concerned
19	Not at all concerned
4	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.18 Do you happen to know if this Arab company WOULD or would NOT have been in charge of security at the ports?⁹

14	Would
38	Would not
<u>48</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**NO QUESTIONS 19 THROUGH 24
QUESTIONS 25-27 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:

Q.28F1 In general, do you think that free trade with other countries is good or bad for the United States?

		<u>Feb 2000</u>
66	Good	64
23	Bad	27
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>9</u>
100		100

⁹ From March 8-9 the question was worded "be in charge" rather than "have been in charge."

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

Q.29F2 There's been some discussion recently about "outsourcing" – meaning when American businesses hire workers in other parts of the world in order to save money. Which comes closer to your view on this issue?
[READ AND ROTATE]

		Late March <u>2005</u>
71	Outsourcing is bad for the American economy because it sends good jobs overseas	69
	OR	
20	Outsourcing is good for the American economy because it keeps the cost of goods and services down	22
3	Both [VOL.]	2
1	Neither [VOL.]	2
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100		100

QUESTIONS 30-50 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=710]:

On a different subject...

Q.51F1 Lately, there has been some talk about investors from other countries owning companies in the U.S. In general, do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing for the U.S.?

		<u>Jan 1989</u>
33	Good thing	18
53	Bad thing	70
<u>14</u>	Don't know/No opinion	<u>12</u>
100		100

Q.52F1 Thinking about foreign ownership in the U.S., do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party would do the better job of handling this kind of issue?

23	The Republican Party, or
38	The Democratic Party
4	Both equally (VOL. DO NOT READ)
13	Neither (VOL. DO NOT READ)
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

NO QUESTION 53

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=695]:

On a different subject...

Q.54F2 Lately, there has been some talk about companies in other countries investing in the U.S. In general, do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing for the U.S.?

53	Good thing
36	Bad thing
<u>11</u>	Don't know/No opinion
100	

Q.55F2 Thinking about foreign investment in the U.S., do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party would do the better job of handling this kind of issue?

31 The Republican Party, or
 41 The Democratic Party
 2 Both equally (VOL. DO NOT READ)
 8 Neither (VOL. DO NOT READ)
18 Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
 100

NO QUESTIONS 56-59

QUESTIONS 60-75 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only.

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL) Other <u>Party</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	29	32	36	2	*	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Yearly Totals						
2005	30	33	31	4	*	2=100
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100

PARTY TREND CONTINUED

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No Preference/ <u>Other/DK</u>
1996	29	33	33	5=100
1995	32	30	34	4=100
1994	30	32	34	4=100
1993	27	34	34	5=100
1992	28	33	35	4=100
1991	31	32	33	4=100
1990	31	33	30	6=100
			Independent/	
	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>No Pref/Oth/DK</u>	
1989	33	33	34=100	
1987	26	35	39=100	

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	Refused <u>to lean</u>
March, 2006	11	14	13=38%
February, 2006	11	16	10=37%
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%