



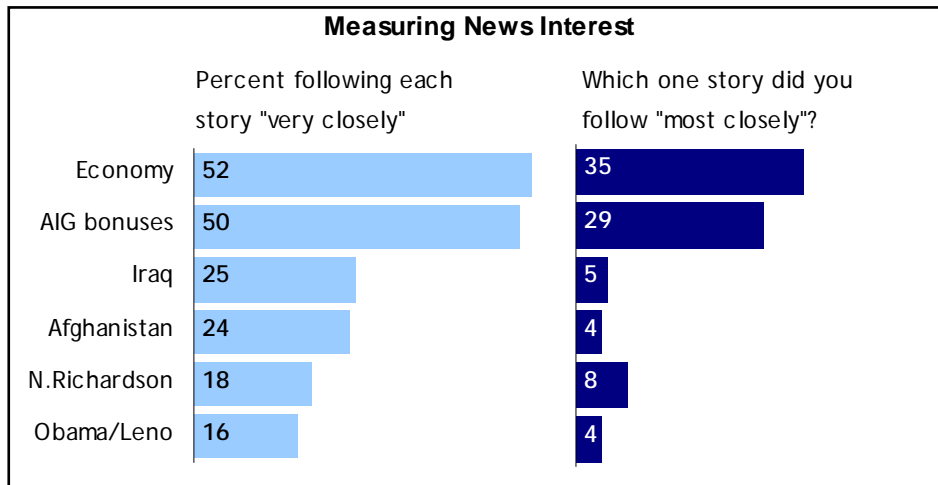
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Echoes of Dubai Ports Deal

STRONG INTEREST IN AIG, POSITIVE VIEWS OF CONGRESS' RESPONSE

The controversy over the millions of dollars in bonuses paid to AIG employees attracted considerable public interest last week. In fact, about as many people tracked that story very closely (50%) as followed news about the overall economy very closely (52%). The AIG controversy was the most closely followed story of the week for 29% of Americans, approaching that of the economic crisis overall (35%).



While the AIG bonuses drew more coverage than general economic news last week, the public did not view the AIG coverage as excessive: 47% said that news organizations gave the right amount of coverage to the controversy, while 28% say there was too much coverage and 23% believe that AIG was undercovered.

The public also expressed positive views of Congress' response to the AIG situation. Spurred by anger over the millions paid in bonuses by AIG and other financial firms that received government bailout money, the House overwhelmingly approved legislation imposing a 90% tax on such bonuses. Overall, 58% of Americans say that Congress' response to AIG

paying bonuses while receiving government assistance was appropriate compared with 30% who say lawmakers made too much of the situation.

In this regard, the current reactions to the furor over AIG are comparable to the public's response to the controversy three years ago over a proposal to let a Dubai-based company operate U.S. ports. In both cases, majorities endorsed the outrage displayed by Congress while far fewer said that lawmakers overreacted.

Support for how Congress handled the AIG dustup is broad and bipartisan. About two-thirds (65%) of Democrats and smaller majorities of Republicans (55%) and independents (55%) say that Congress acted appropriately. People who followed news about AIG very closely are somewhat more likely than those who followed AIG news less closely to endorse Congress' reaction (63% vs. 53%). And more women than men say Congress reacted appropriately to the controversy (65% vs. 50%).

	<i>Dubai ports</i> Mar 2006	<i>AIG bonuses</i> Mar 2009
<i>Did Congress make too much of situation?</i>	%	%
Acted appropriately	58	58
Made too much of it	24	30
Don't know	18	12
	100	100
<i>Percent following each story 'very closely'</i>	41%	50%

The latest weekly News Interest Index, conducted March 20-23 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, finds that the AIG controversy has not affected Barack Obama's image in recent days. More than half of the public (56%) says their opinion of the president has not changed in the past few weeks. Among those whose views have changed, 22% say their opinion of Obama has become more favorable recently, while 19% say their view of him has become less favorable.

Opinions about Obama in recent weeks are about the same as they were in the Feb. 27-March 2 News Interest Index survey. As was the case then, a sizable minority of Republicans (39% currently) say that their opinion of Obama has become more negative in recent weeks; a comparable proportion of Democrats (39%) say their opinion of Obama has become more favorable over that period.

	Feb 6-9	Feb 27- Mar 2	Mar 20-23
	%	%	%
More favorable	23	23	22
Less favorable	16	20	19
No change	60	56	56
Don't know	1	1	3
	100	100	100

Question: In the past few weeks, have you come to have a MORE favorable opinion of Barack Obama, a LESS favorable opinion Barack Obama, or hasn't your opinion of him changed lately?

Too Much Coverage of Obama on Leno

On balance, more people say the AIG bonuses have gotten the right amount of coverage than say there has been too much coverage (47% to 28%). However, the reverse is true when it comes to opinions about coverage of Obama's appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

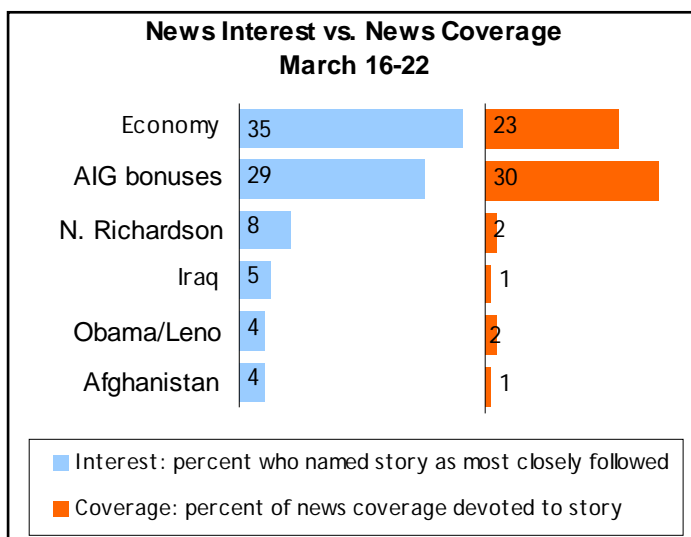
A plurality (46%) says that Obama's appearance received too much coverage. About a third (35%) says news organizations devoted the right amount of coverage to Obama's appearance while 8% say it got too little coverage.

By contrast, most Americans (54%) believe that the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan is getting too little coverage; 36% say the news media has given the Afghanistan war the right amount of coverage while 7% say the war has received too much coverage. A sizable minority (45%) also says that news organizations have undercovered news about the situation in Iraq.

<i>Amount of coverage of...</i>	Too much	Too little	Right amount	DK
	%	%	%	%
Obama on Tonight Show	46	8	35	11=100
Death of Natasha Richardson	34	5	53	8=100
Millions in AIG bonuses	28	23	47	2=100
Condition of the economy	21	26	51	2=100
Military effort in Afghanistan	7	54	36	3=100
Current situation in Iraq	8	45	43	4=100

The Week's Top Stories

Last week, both news coverage and the public's news interests were dominated by the economic crisis and the backlash against the AIG bonuses. While 35% said that news about the economy was the story they followed most closely, and 29% named AIG as their top story, other news developments were overshadowed. The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism found that these stories also accounted for most news coverage last week (30% AIG and 23% for other elements of the economy; yielding a total for economic coverage of 53%).



Barack Obama's appearance on the Tonight Show, where he spoke at length about AIG and the economy, was followed very closely by 16% of the public and was the top story of the week for 4% of Americans. News organizations devoted 2% of the newshole to Obama's late night appearance.

News about the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to attract modest interest from the public. Last week, one-in-four Americans followed the situation in Iraq very closely and 5% said it was the story they followed more closely than any other. The military effort in Afghanistan also was followed very closely by 24%. This was the top story of the week for 4% of the public. The media devoted 1% of the newshole each to events in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Reports about actress Natasha Richardson's death after a skiing accident were followed very closely by 18% of the public and for 8% this was the story they followed more closely than any other. Many more women (13%) than men (3%) listed this as the story they followed most closely last week. News about Natasha Richardson accounted for 2% of all coverage.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected from March 16-22, 2009 and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected March 20-23, 2009 from a nationally representative sample of 1,002 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events.

This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for the weekly surveys are based on telephone interviews among a nationwide sample of approximately 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, conducted under the direction of ORC (Opinion Research Corporation). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.5 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, and that results based on subgroups will have larger margins of error.

For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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 seven 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:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 20-23, 2009 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
TOPLINE
N=1,002

Q.1 In the past few weeks, have you come to have a MORE favorable opinion of Barack Obama, a LESS favorable opinion of Barack Obama, or hasn't your opinion of him changed lately?

	<u>More favorable</u>	<u>Less favorable</u>	<u>Opinion has not changed</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>
Barack Obama	22	19	56	3=100
February 27-March 2, 2009	23	20	56	1=100
February 6-9, 2009	23	16	60	1=100
2008 CAMPAIGN				
TREND FOR COMPARISON:¹				
October 31-November 3, 2008	25	25	49	1=100
October 24-27, 2008	24	21	52	3=100
October 17-20, 2008	33	23	43	1=100
October 10-13, 2008	29	21	48	2=100
October 3-6, 2008	28	23	47	2=100
September 26-29, 2008	31	23	45	1=100
September 19-22, 2008	25	20	53	2=100
September 12-15, 2008	20	20	58	2=100
September 5-8, 2008	20	20	59	1=100
August 29-31, 2008	29	19	50	2=100
August 22-25, 2008	22	21	54	3=100
August 15-18, 2008	16	21	60	3=100
August 8-11, 2008	15	18	64	3=100
August 1-4, 2008	16	22	60	2=100
July 25-28, 2008	17	21	59	3=100
July 18-21, 2008	16	22	60	2=100
July 11-14, 2008	15	17	64	4=100
July 3-7, 2008	17	17	62	4=100
June 27-30, 2008	21	19	56	4=100
June 20-23, 2008	16	16	66	2=100
June 13-16, 2008	17	15	64	4=100
June 6-9, 2008	19	17	61	3=100
May 30-June 2, 2008	17	21	58	4=100
May 22-25, 2008	18	20	60	2=100
May 16-19, 2008	19	19	59	3=100
May 9-12, 2008	20	23	55	2=100
May 2-5, 2008	11	25	59	5=100
April 25-28, 2008	16	24	58	2=100
April 18-21, 2008	18	24	54	4=100
March 28-31, 2008	18	27	52	3=100
March 20-24, 2008	22	30	46	2=100

¹ For March 20-24, 2008 through October 31-November 3, 2008 the introduction read, "In the past few days." For September 12-15 through October 31-November 3, 2008 the question asked respondents to "Please think about each of the following candidates," Barack Obama, John McCain, Joe Biden and Sarah Palin in the 2008 presidential and vice presidential elections. For June 13-16, 2008 through September 5-8, 2008, the question was worded, "Please think about each of the following *presidential* candidates..." and asked about Barack Obama and John McCain. For March 20-24, 2008 through June 6-9, 2008 the list of presidential candidates included Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John McCain.

Q.2 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. News about millions of dollars in bonuses paid to AIG employees	50	31	9	10	*=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:²					
March 8-12, 2006: <i>The debate over an Arab-owned company possibly running U.S. ports</i>	41	27	13	18	1=100
b. The current situation and events in Iraq	25	37	21	17	*=100
February 27-March 2, 2009³	40	37	13	9	1=100
December 12-15, 2008	24	35	25	16	*=100
November 21-24, 2008	32	31	24	13	0=100
November 14-17, 2008	24	33	27	16	*=100
October 31-November 3, 2008	30	35	22	12	1=100
October 24-27, 2008	29	35	25	11	*=100
October 10-13, 2008	23	34	30	13	*=100
October 3-6, 2008	29	33	28	10	*=100
September 5-8, 2008	24	37	26	13	*=100
August 29-31, 2008	22	32	29	16	1=100
August 22-25, 2008	26	31	27	15	1=100
August 1-4, 2008	27	40	23	10	*=100
July 25-28, 2008	28	33	22	17	*=100
July 18-21, 2008	33	35	20	12	*=100
July 11-14, 2008	24	35	24	16	1=100
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	25	15	*=100
June 20-23, 2008	25	36	24	15	*=100
May 9-12, 2008	29	35	21	14	1=100
May 2-5, 2008	26	35	25	13	1=100
April 25-28, 2008	29	35	23	12	1=100
April 18-21, 2008	29	39	20	11	1=100
April 11-14, 2008	25	39	20	15	1=100
April 4-7, 2008	25	37	23	15	*=100
March 28-31, 2008	29	40	19	11	1=100
March 20-24, 2008	30	38	19	13	*=100
March 14-17, 2008	29	38	23	10	*=100
March 7-10, 2008	28	39	18	15	*=100
February 29-March 3, 2008	28	40	19	13	*=100
February 8-11, 2008	24	35	25	16	*=100
February 1-4, 2008	28	39	22	11	*=100
January 25-28, 2008	23	35	26	16	*=100
January 18-21, 2008	31	33	20	15	1=100
January 11-14, 2008	25	38	21	16	*=100
January 4-7, 2008	27	38	20	15	*=100

² From March 8-9, 2006 the story was worded “The possibility that an Arab-owned company might be allowed to run U.S. ports.”

³ February 27-March 2, 2009 asked about “Barack Obama’s plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010.” From May, 2003 to March 23-26, 2007, the story was listed as “News about the current situation in Iraq.” From March 20-24, 2003 to April 11-16, 2003, the story was listed as “News about the war in Iraq.” From Early 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.”

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
December 14-17, 2007	26	32	24	18	*=100
December 7-10, 2007	28	37	21	14	*=100
November 23-26, 2007	25	37	21	16	1=100
November 16-19, 2007	31	37	19	12	1=100
November 9-12, 2007	29	38	19	13	1=100
November 2-5, 2007	31	35	18	15	1=100
October 26-29, 2007	28	37	21	13	1=100
October 19-22, 2007	28	37	20	15	*=100
October 12-15, 2007	26	36	18	19	1=100
October 5-8, 2007	29	33	22	16	*=100
September 28 – October 1, 2007	30	41	18	11	*=100
September 21-24, 2007	32	38	17	13	*=100
September 14-17, 2007	31	36	18	15	0=100
September 7-10, 2007	32	34	20	14	*=100
August 30 – September 2, 2007	31	34	18	16	1=100
August 24-27, 2007	34	36	18	12	*=100
August 17-20, 2007	33	34	18	15	*=100
August 10-13, 2007	36	37	14	13	*=100
August 3-6, 2007	29	40	19	12	*=100
July 27-30, 2007	28	36	19	16	1=100
July 20-23, 2007	28	34	21	16	1=100
July 13-16, 2007	25	41	17	16	1=100
July 6-9, 2007	36	34	18	12	*=100
June 29-July 2, 2007	32	35	19	13	1=100
June 22-25, 2007	30	36	18	15	1=100
June 15-18, 2007	30	37	20	13	*=100
June 8-11, 2007	32	38	15	14	1=100
June 1-4, 2007	30	36	20	13	1=100
May 24-27, 2007	33	36	18	12	1=100
May 18-21, 2007	36	34	15	14	1=100
May 11-14, 2007	30	34	18	17	1=100
May 4-7, 2007	38	37	15	10	*=100
April 27-30, 2007	27	35	21	16	1=100
April 20-23, 2007	28	35	22	15	*=100
April 12-16, 2007	34	33	20	13	*=100
April 5-9, 2007	33	39	16	11	1=100
March 30-April 2, 2007	34	37	16	13	*=100
March 23-March 26, 2007	31	38	18	12	1=100
March 16-19, 2007	34	34	17	15	*=100
March 9-12, 2007	34	37	16	13	*=100
March 2-5, 2007	37	37	16	9	1=100
February 23-26, 2007	36	36	15	13	*=100
February 16-19, 2007	30	36	19	14	1=100
February 9-12, 2007	37	34	18	11	*=100
February 2-5, 2007	38	38	17	7	*=100
January 26-29, 2007	36	38	15	11	*=100
January 19-22, 2007	37	34	18	10	1=100
January 12-15, 2007	38	36	17	8	1=100
January, 2007	46	40	8	5	1=100
January 5-8, 2007	40	32	16	12	0=100
December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*=100
November 30-December 3, 2006	40	36	13	11	*=100
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*=100

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2=100
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1=100
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1=100
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1=100
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1=100
March, 2006	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
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
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
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	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	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
c. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	52	34	8	6	*=100
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*=100
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*=100
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*=100
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*=100
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0=100
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*=100
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*=100

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*=100
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*=100
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*=100
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*=100
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*=100
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*=100
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1=100
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*=100
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*=100
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*=100
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*=100
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*=100
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*=100
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1=100
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*=100
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*=100
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0=100
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*=100
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*=100
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1=100
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1=100
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*=100
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*=100
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1=100
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1=100
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*=100
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*=100
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*=100
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1=100
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8=100
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1=100
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*=100
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1=100
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1=100
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*=100
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*=100
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1=100
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1=100
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1=100
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1=100
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*=100
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2=100
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1=100
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1=100
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1=100
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1=100
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*=100
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1=100
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1=100
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1=100

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1=100
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2=100
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
d. The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan	24	32	22	22	*=100
February 20-23, 2009⁴	27	29	24	19	1=100
January 30-February 2, 2009	26	34	24	16	*=100
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1=100
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1=100
October 10-13, 2008	19	34	29	18	*=100
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1=100
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*=100
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*=100
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1=100
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*=100
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*=100
Late July, 2002	41	38	13	7	1=100
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1=100
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1=100
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1=100
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1=100
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1=100

⁴ 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."

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1=100
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1=100
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1=100
e. The death of actress Natasha Richardson after a skiing accident	18	28	24	30	*=100
f. President Obama's appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno	16	16	16	51	1=100

Q.3 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.]

- 35 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
 - 29 News about millions of dollars in bonuses paid to AIG employees
 - 8 The death of actress Natasha Richardson after a skiing accident
 - 5 The current situation and events in Iraq
 - 4 President Obama's appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno
 - 4 The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan
 - 6 Some other story (VOL.)
 - 2 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

On another topic . . .

Q.4 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage or the right amount of coverage to each of the following? [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a. News about millions of dollars in bonuses paid to AIG employees	28	23	47	2=100
b. The current situation and events in Iraq	8	45	43	4=100
February 6-9, 2009: Recent elections in Iraq	5	47	36	12=100
June 20-23, 2008	11	42	44	3=100
April 25-28, 2008	12	44	42	2=100
January 25-28, 2008	13	35	47	5=100
December 14-17, 2007	15	36	44	5=100
November 16-19, 2007	14	34	48	4=100
November 2-5, 2007⁵	18	33	43	6=100
July 20-23, 2007	18	28	48	6=100
June 1-4, 2007	23	23	47	7=100
c. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	21	26	51	2=100
January 18-21, 2008	11	32	52	5=100
February, 2001: <i>Signs of an economic slowdown</i>	21	25	46	8=100

⁵ For November 2-5, 2007 this item was not part of a list, it was a stand alone question and asked about: "The war in Iraq."

Q.4 CONTINUED...

		<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
d.	The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan June 20-23, 2008⁶	7	54	36	3=100
		7	55	34	4=100
e.	The death of actress Natasha Richardson after a skiing accident	34	5	53	8=100
f.	President Obama's appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno	46	8	35	11=100
Q.5	Thinking about Congress' response to AIG paying bonuses to many employees while receiving government assistance...From what you have seen and heard, do you think that Congress made too much of this situation, or was Congress' response appropriate?				
	30 Made too much of it				
	58 Response was appropriate				
	<u>12</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)				
	100				

TREND FOR COMPARISON MARCH 2006: DUBAI COMPANY-U.S. PORTS

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? {14% Approve, 73% Disapprove, 13% Don't know/Refused}
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, or not? {46% satisfactory, 38% Not satisfactory, 16% Don't know/Refused}
P.2	Do you think that Congress made too much of this situation, or was Congress' response appropriate? ⁷
	24 Made too much of it
	58 Response was appropriate
	<u>18</u> Don't know/Refused
	100

⁶ For June 20-23, 2008 the item was listed as "The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters."

⁷ Questions P.1 and P.2 were asked March 10-12, 2006 only. N=795.