



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release

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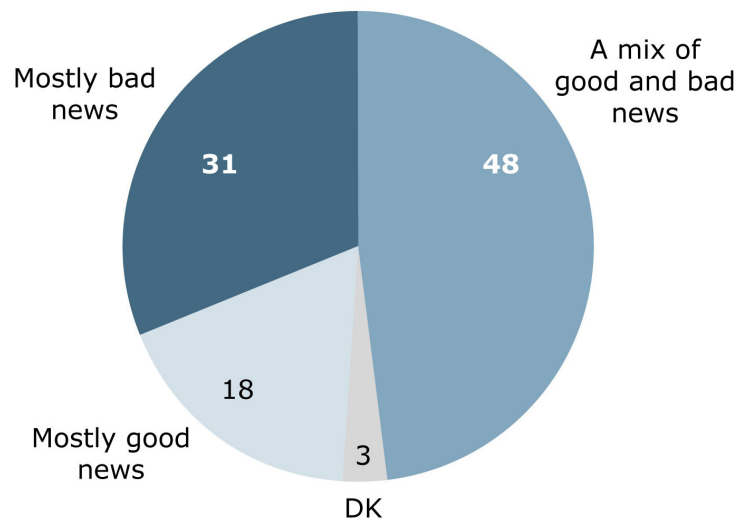
Election Prediction: Many Expect GOP to Take House

Oil Leak News Viewed as Mix of Good and Bad

Amid reports that BP has been able to at least temporarily stem the flow of oil from its ruptured underwater well, the public and the media last week again focused on the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

And, after several months of relentlessly bad news about the spreading spill, the possibility of a positive development appears to have registered with the public. Close to half (48%) say they have been hearing a mix of good and bad news about the situation in the Gulf, according to the latest weekly News Interest Index survey conducted July 15-18 among 1,003 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Only 18% say they have been hearing mostly good news, while 31% say they have been hearing mostly bad news.

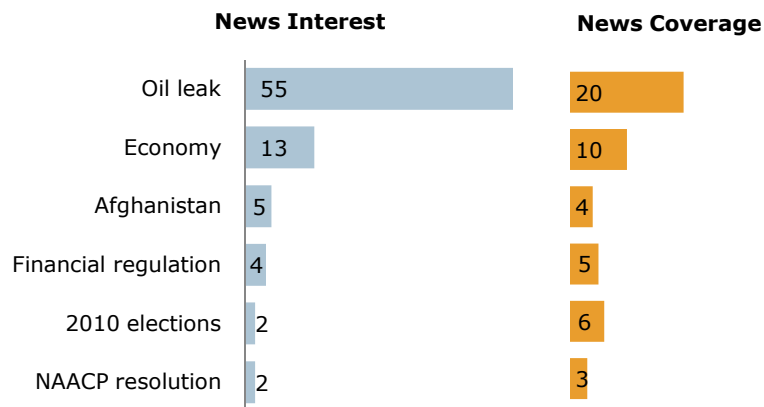
Hearing about the situation in the Gulf of Mexico ...



More than half of the public (55%) say this was the news they followed most closely last week. The Gulf coast spill now has been the most closely followed story for each of the past 12 weeks.

News about the spill again received more coverage than any other major story, accounting for 20% of the newshole. That is up from 15% one week earlier, but still below peak levels reached in May and June, when it accounted for one-third or more of coverage, according to the Pew Research Center’s Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ).

Comparing News Interest and News Coverage



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, July 15-18, 2010. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center’s Project for Excellence in Journalism, July 12-18, 2010.

On another subject, 40% say that – taking into account what they have read and heard so far about this year’s congressional elections – they think Republicans are more likely to gain a majority of seats in the House of Representatives than Democrats are to hold on to their majority (33% say this is more likely). More than a quarter (27%) say they do not know.

Democrats and Republicans offer widely different assessments, each favoring their own party. Among independents, 44% say they think a Republican takeover is more likely than Democrats holding on to their majority (25%). Partisan differences also are sharp when people are asked whether recent news coverage of certain political and party leaders – including Barack Obama and Sarah Palin – has been too tough, too easy or fair.

Judging the Tone of Recent Gulf News

After several months of news about failed efforts to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, BP appeared to make progress last week, installing a cap on the broken well on the ocean floor.

Among those following this news very closely – fully 50% of the public – a larger proportion (23%) says they are hearing mostly good news about the situation than among those following less closely (13%). Still, roughly the same numbers say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news (46% among those following very closely, 50% among those following less closely).

More of those 65 and older say they are following this news very closely (67%) than other age groups and more of those 65 and older say they are hearing mostly good news (26%). Those ages 18-29 are least likely to say they are following news about the Gulf oil spill very closely (35%). Among the youngest age group, just 14% see the news as mostly good. About a third in this group (35%) say the news has been mostly bad, compared with 23% of those 65 and older. Still, both groups are equally likely to say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news (50% for those 18-29 and 48% for those 65 and older).

News About the Gulf is Mixed

News about the Gulf of Mexico is...

	Mostly good %	Mostly bad %	Mixed %	DK %
Total	18	31	48	3=100
<i>Follow Gulf oil leak news...</i>				
Very closely	23	31	46	1=100
Less closely	13	32	50	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 15-18, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

On Balance, More See GOP Gaining Majority in House

Four-in-ten Americans say that from what they have read and heard about the upcoming congressional elections, they think it is more likely that the GOP will regain a majority of seats in the House than the Democrats will maintain their majority (33%). More than a quarter (27%) do not know.

The divide is wider among those following this news closely. Last week, the media devoted 6% of the coverage to the 2010 congressional elections, ranking that story just behind the oil spill and the economy. But fewer than two-in-ten (17%) say they followed these stories very closely and just 2% say they followed election news more closely than any other story.

More than half of those following news about the elections very closely (55%) say they think it is more likely that Republicans will win a majority of seats; 37% of those following less closely say this. There is no difference in the percentages that say the Democrats are more likely to hold their majority (34% among those following very closely; 33% among those following less closely), but those following less closely are much more likely to say they do not know (30% vs. 11%).

Among partisans, 74% of Republicans say that from what they have read and heard about the elections, their party is more likely to regain its majority. Six-in-ten Democrats (61%) say they think their party is more likely to maintain its majority. More than four-in-ten independents (44%), however, say they think it is more likely the GOP will win control; just a quarter say they think the Democrats will maintain their majority. More independents offer no opinion (31% don't know) than either Democrats (18%) or Republicans (15%).

Many Independents See GOP Winning House

From what you've read and heard, what is more likely this fall?

	Democrats maintain majority %	Republicans regain majority %	Don't know %
Total	33	40	27=100
Republican	11	74	15=100
Democrat	61	21	18=100
Independent	25	44	31=100
<i>Following election news...</i>			
Very closely	34	55	11=100
Less Closely	33	37	30=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 15-18, 2010 Q3.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding

Partisans Take Differing Views on Fairness of Political Coverage

On balance, more Americans think news coverage of Barack Obama has been fair (39%) than too easy (27%) or too tough (24%). Those numbers are little changed since April. There continues to be wide partisan differences in views of coverage of Obama. More than half of Republicans (55%) say the coverage has been too easy, 29% say it has been fair and just 8% say it has been too tough. Just 9% of Democrats say the coverage has been too easy, while equal percentages view it as fair and too tough (42% each).

Among independents, 44% see coverage of Obama as fair, 26% say it has been too easy and 20% say it has been too tough.

In assessing press treatment of Sarah Palin, more say the coverage has been too tough (30%) rather than too easy (18%); 32% say the coverage has been fair. In July 2009, 41% saw coverage of Palin as fair, 36% saw it as too tough and 12% saw it as too easy.

More than half of Republicans (53%) say coverage of Palin has been too tough. About a quarter say coverage has been fair (24%), while just 5% say it has been too easy. Three-in-ten Democrats, on the other hand, say coverage of Palin has been too easy, 37% say it has been fair and 16% say it has been too tough. Independents largely mirror the public as a whole.

Views of Press Coverage of Obama, Palin

Press coverage of Barack Obama has been...

	Too easy %	Too tough %	Fair %	DK %
Total	27	24	39	10=100
Republican	55	8	29	9=100
Democrat	9	42	42	7=100
Independent	26	20	44	10=100

Press coverage of Sarah Palin has been...

	Too easy %	Too tough %	Fair %	DK %
Total	18	30	32	21=100
Republican	5	53	24	17=100
Democrat	30	16	37	17=100
Independent	17	30	33	20=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 15-18, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Views of Coverage of Congressional Leaders, the Tea Party

The public tends to see coverage of both Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress as fair, while many do not offer an opinion on press coverage of the Tea Party movement.

Comparable numbers say coverage has been fair (45% for Republican leaders and 44% for Democratic leaders). About two-in-ten (22%) say coverage of Republican leaders has been too easy, while 15% say it has been too tough. For the Democratic leaders, 27% say coverage has been too easy and 12% say it has been too tough.

More than half of Republicans (53%) say coverage of Democratic leaders has been too easy; 27% say it has been fair and just 7% say it has been too tough. Looking at coverage of their own party's leaders in Congress, 41% say coverage has been fair, 35% say too tough and 9% say too easy.

A majority of Democrats sees coverage of their party's leaders as fair (54%), while 21% say it has been too tough and 11% say too easy.

Independents offer similar assessments of the coverage of both parties. About half (49%) say coverage of Republican leaders has been fair, 21% say too easy and 13% say too tough. Nearly half (48%) say coverage of Democratic leaders has been fair, 26% say too easy and 10% say too tough.

Many do not offer opinions about coverage of the Tea Party movement. Overall, 33% say coverage has been fair, 18% say too easy and 18% say too tough. About three-in-ten (31%) say they do not know.

Among Republicans, 33% say coverage of the Tea Party movement has been too tough, while 29% say it has been fair and 10% say too easy. Another 29% say they do not know. Among Democrats, 38% say coverage of the Tea Parties has been fair, 27% say too easy and 8% say too

Rating Coverage of Party Leaders in Congress, the Tea Party

Press coverage of Republican leaders in Congress has been...

	Too easy %	Too tough %	Fair %	DK %
Total	22	15	45	18=100
Republican	9	35	41	15=100
Democrat	32	6	49	13=100
Independent	21	13	49	18=100

Press coverage of Democratic leaders in Congress has been...

	Too easy %	Too tough %	Fair %	DK %
Total	27	12	44	17=100
Republican	53	7	27	14=100
Democrat	11	21	54	14=100
Independent	26	10	48	16=100

Press coverage of the Tea Party has been...

	Too easy %	Too tough %	Fair %	DK %
Total	18	18	33	31=100
Republican	10	33	29	29=100
Democrat	27	8	38	26=100
Independent	16	18	36	29=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 15-18, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

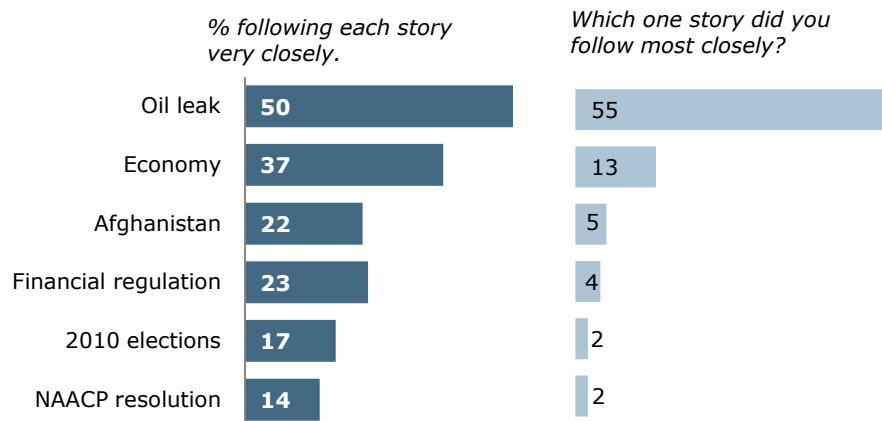
tough. About a quarter (26%) do not know. Among independents, 36% see coverage as fair, 18% say too tough and 16% say too easy. About three-in-ten (29%) offer no opinion.

The Week’s News

The oil leak and the economy’s continued struggles remain the top long-running stories of this summer. Close to four-in-ten (37%) say they followed news about the economy very closely, while 13% say this was the story they followed more closely than any other. News about the economy – not including final congressional action on a financial regulatory overhaul – accounted for 10% of the newshole, according to PEJ.

About a quarter (23%) say they followed news about the regulatory overhaul very closely; 4% say this was the story they followed most closely. News about the legislation accounted for 5% of coverage.

Measuring News Interest



Just more than two-in-ten (22%) say they followed news about the situation in Afghanistan very closely last week; 5% say they followed Afghanistan news more closely than any other story. News about the war accounted for 4% of coverage.

Fewer than two-in-ten (17%) say they followed news about the 2010 elections very closely. This was the top story for 2%. This news made up 6% of coverage. Meanwhile, 14% say they very closely followed news about a resolution passed by the NAACP calling on Tea Party leaders to condemn racist talk among supporters; 2% say this was the story they followed most closely. News about the Tea Party, primarily news about the NAACP resolution, accounted for 3% of 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 July 12-18, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected July 15-18, from a nationally representative sample of 1,003 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. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) 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 this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,003 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from July 15-18, 2010 (672 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 122 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,003	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	251	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	328	6.5 percentage points
Independents	344	6.5 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.

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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For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to www.people-press.org.

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
NEWS INTEREST INDEX
JULY 15-18, 2010 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1003

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/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
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

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
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	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
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

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
b. The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico					
July 15-18, 2010	50	32	10	7	*
July 8-11, 2010	43	40	10	6	1
July 1-5, 2010	57	29	9	5	*
June 24-27, 2010	56	31	8	5	*
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. News about this year's congressional elections					
July 15-18, 2010	17	23	26	33	1
June 10-13, 2010	20	29	24	27	1
May 20-23, 2010	23	25	24	27	*
April 23-26, 2010	20	25	19	35	*
March 5-8, 2010	25	27	21	26	1
January 8-11, 2010	20	24	26	29	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for local and statewide elections</i>	20	35	24	20	1
Early November, 2006: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	37	18	17	1
Late October, 2006 (RVs)	27	45	17	11	*
Early October, 2006	21	38	25	15	1
Early September, 2006	16	32	28	23	1
August, 2006	20	29	28	22	1
June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2
May, 2006	18	28	30	23	1
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	1
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1
Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*
Early August, 1998	13	30	28	23	1
June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1
April, 1998 ¹	16	33	24	27	*
November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*
Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1
Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1
September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*
November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*
October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*
d. Congress passing legislation to overhaul the nation's financial regulatory system					
July 15-18, 2010	23	25	19	31	2
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
May 20-23, 2010: <i>Proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions</i>	22	29	21	28	1
April 30-May 3, 2010	19	28	19	33	1
April 23-26, 2010	27	26	20	27	*
June 19-22, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plans to expand regulations of financial institutions</i>	27	28	26	19	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plans to expand regulations over financial institutions</i>	36	29	19	16	*
e. A resolution passed by the NAACP criticizing elements of the Tea Party movement					
July 15-18, 2010	14	18	20	46	2
f. The current situation and events in Afghanistan					
July 15-18, 2010	22	33	23	22	*
July 8-11, 2010	23	32	24	20	1
July 1-5, 2010	29	34	23	14	1
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:					
June 24-27, 2010: <i>General Stanley McChrystal resigning as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after being quoted criticizing President Obama and his Afghanistan strategy</i>	28	31	19	21	1
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

¹ In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state." In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

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.**]

- 55 The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico
- 13 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 5 The current situation and events in Afghanistan
- 4 Congress passing legislation to overhaul the nation's financial regulatory system
- 2 News about this year's Congressional elections
- 2 A resolution passed by the NAACP criticizing elements of the Tea Party movement
- 9 Some other story (**VOL.**)
- 10 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 From what you've read and heard about the Congressional elections this fall, what do you think is more likely to happen? [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]

- 33 The Democratic Party will maintain its majority in the House of Representatives [OR]
- 40 The Republican Party will regain a majority in the House of Representatives
- 27 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

PEW.4-PEW.5 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PEW.6. Now thinking about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, are you hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of good and bad news about the situation in the Gulf of Mexico?

- 18 Mostly good news
- 31 Mostly bad news [**OR**]
- 48 A mix of good and bad
- 3 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

ASK ALL:

PEW.7 Thinking about recent news coverage of some people and groups, would you say the press has been too easy, too tough or fair in the way it has covered [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?

	<u>Too easy</u>	<u>Too tough</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. The Tea Party Movement				
July 15-18, 2010	18	18	33	31
TREND FOR COMPARISON				
April 16-19, 2010 ²	17	24	46	12
b. Barack Obama				
July 15-18, 2010	27	24	39	10
April 9-12, 2010	29	21	42	8
October 3-6, 2008	31	7	60	2
April 25-28, 2008	26	17	52	5
March 20-24, 2008	23	15	55	7
February 29-March 3, 2008	28	8	58	6
February 1-4, 2008	23	8	61	8
c. Sarah Palin				
July 15-18, 2010	18	30	32	21
July 10-13, 2009	12	36	41	11
October 3-6, 2008	21	38	38	3
d. Republican leaders in Congress				
July 15-18, 2010	22	15	45	18
e. Democratic leaders in Congress				
July 15-18, 2010	27	12	44	17

PEW.8-PEW.9 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

² April 16-19, 2010 results based on those who had heard a lot or a little about the Tea Party movement.