

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2007 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,018**

Q.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, 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 ITEMS] [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 the current situation and events in Iraq					
Iraq	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
September 21-24, 2007	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
September 14-17, 2007	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0=100</b>
September 7-10, 2007	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*=100</b>
August 30 – September 2, 2007	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
August 24-27, 2007	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
August 17-20, 2007	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
August 10-13, 2007	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
August 3-6, 2007	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
July 27-30, 2007	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
July 20-23, 2007	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
July 13-16, 2007	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
July 6-9, 2007	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
June 29-July 2, 2007	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1=100</b>
June 22-25, 2007	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1=100</b>
June 15-18, 2007	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
June 8-11, 2007	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
June 1-4, 2007	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1=100</b>
May 24-27, 2007	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1=100</b>
May 18-21, 2007	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
May 11-14, 2007	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1=100</b>
May 4-7, 2007	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
April 27-30, 2007	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
April 20-23, 2007	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
April 12-16, 2007	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
April 5-9, 2007	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1=100</b>
March 30-April 2, 2007	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
March 23-March 26, 2007 <sup>1</sup>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1=100</b>
March 16-19, 2007	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
March 9-12, 2007	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
March 2-5, 2007	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1=100</b>
February 23-26, 2007	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
February 16-19, 2007	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
February 9-12, 2007	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
February 2-5, 2007	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>*=100</b>
January 26-29, 2007	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
January 19-22, 2007	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1=100</b>
January 12-15, 2007	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1=100</b>
January, 2007	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1=100</b>
January 5-8, 2007	<b>40</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0=100</b>
December, 2006	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>*=100</b>

<sup>1</sup> From May, 2003 to March 23-26, 2007, the story was listed as “News about the current situation in Iraq.”

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
<b>November 30-December 3, 2006</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*=100
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 <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	48	29	15	6	2=100

<sup>2</sup> From March 20-24, 2003 to April 11-16, 2003, the story was listed as “News about the war in Iraq.”

<sup>3</sup> 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.”

<sup>4</sup> In Early September, 2002, the story was listed as “Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq.”

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
b. The debate in Washington over U.S. policy in Iraq	22	32	22	24	*=100
<b>September 21-24, 2007</b>	25	28	20	27	*=100
<b>September 14-17, 2007<sup>5</sup></b>	25	27	20	27	1=100
<b>September 7-10, 2007</b>	25	27	22	26	*=100
<b>August 30-September 2, 2007</b>	22	27	20	31	*=100
<b>August 24-27, 2007</b>	25	30	19	25	1=100
<b>August 3-6, 2007</b>	21	33	20	26	*=100
<b>July 27-30, 2007</b>	24	28	20	27	1=100
<b>July 20-23, 2007</b>	23	24	24	28	1=100
<b>July 13-16, 2007</b>	20	30	20	30	*=100
<b>July 6-9, 2007</b>	27	26	23	24	*=100
<b>June 1-4, 2007</b>	20	27	24	27	2=100
<b>May 24-27, 2007</b>	30	32	20	18	*=100
<b>May 18-21, 2007</b>	24	32	19	24	1=100
<b>May 11-14, 2007</b>	25	26	19	29	1=100
<b>May 4-7, 2007</b>	30	31	19	20	*=100
<b>April 27-30, 2007</b>	18	31	21	29	1=100
<b>April 20-23, 2007</b>	22	29	24	25	*=100
<b>April 12-16, 2007</b>	25	29	22	23	1=100
<b>April 5-9, 2007</b>	31	28	20	21	*=100
<b>March 30-April 2, 2007</b>	26	29	21	23	1=100
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
<b>January 12-15, 2007: President Bush's proposal to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq</b>	40	33	13	13	1=100
c. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent trip to New York City where he spoke at Columbia University and the United Nations	23	31	20	25	1=100
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
<b>June 1-4, 2007: Recent talks between the United States and Iran</b>	19	27	27	26	1=100
<b>February 23-26, 2007: Mounting tensions between the United States and Iran</b>	29	37	18	15	1=100
<b>February 16-19, 2007: Reports that Iran may be supplying weapons to insurgents in Iraq</b>	28	32	20	19	1=100
<b>February 2-5, 2007: Mounting tensions between the United States and Iran</b>	33	38	18	10	1=100
d. An agreement between General Motors and the United Auto Workers union that ended a two-day strike over wages and job security	14	28	28	30	*=100
e. Pro-democracy protests by Buddhist monks in Burma	13	27	20	39	1=100
f. News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election	21	34	25	20	*=100

<sup>5</sup> September 14-17, 2007 asked about "General David Petraeus's report to Congress about how things are going in Iraq."

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*=100
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*=100
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*=100
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*=100
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*=100
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*=100
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*=100
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*=100
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1=100
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1=100
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*=100
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1=100
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*=100
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*=100
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	*=100
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1=100
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1=100
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*=100
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*=100
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1=100
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1=100
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1=100
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*=100
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*=100
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*=100
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	1=100
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*=100
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1=100
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*=100
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1=100
February 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*=100
February 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1=100
February 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1=100
February 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*=100
January 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*=100
January 19-22, 2007 <sup>6</sup>	24	27	22	26	1=100
<b>2004 Presidential Election</b>					
November, 2004 (RVs)	52	36	8	4	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	30	12	11	1=100
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*=100
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1=100
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*=100
Late February, 2004	24	40	23	12	1=100
Early February, 2004 <sup>7</sup>	29	37	20	13	1=100

<sup>6</sup> January 19-22, 2007 asked about "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

<sup>7</sup> From May 2003 to Early February 2004 and in March 1992, the story was listed as "The race for the Democratic nomination." In January 2003, the story was listed as "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004." In September 2000, Early September and July 1996, and May 1992, the question asked about "the presidential election campaign." In January, March and April 1996, the story was listed as "News about the Republican presidential candidates." In August 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential election." In July 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential campaign." In January 1992, the story was listed as "News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1=100
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1=100
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1=100
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1=100
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1=100
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1=100
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1=100
January, 2003	14	28	29	28	1=100
<b>2000 Presidential Election</b>					
Early November, 2000 (RVs)	39	44	12	5	*=100
Mid-October, 2000 (RVs)	40	37	15	8	*=100
Early October, 2000 (RVs)	42	36	15	6	1=100
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	*=100
July, 2000	21	38	20	20	1=100
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1=100
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*=100
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1=100
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1=100
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*=100
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1=100
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1=100
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1=100
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1=100
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1=100
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100
<b>1996 Presidential Election</b>					
November, 1996 (RVs)	34	45	15	6	*=100
October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*=100
Early September, 1996	24	36	23	17	*=100
July, 1996	22	40	23	14	1=100
March, 1996	26	41	20	13	*=100
January, 1996	10	34	31	24	1=100
September, 1995	12	36	30	22	*=100
August, 1995	13	34	28	25	*=100
June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1=100
<b>1992 Presidential Election</b>					
October, 1992 (RVs)	55	36	7	2	0=100
September, 1992 (RVs)	47	36	11	6	*=100
August, 1992 (RVs)	36	51	11	2	0=100
July, 1992	20	45	26	9	*=100
May, 1992	32	44	16	8	*=100
March, 1992	35	40	16	9	*=100
January, 1992	11	25	36	27	1=100
December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*=100
<b>1988 Presidential Election</b>					
October, 1988 (RVs)	43	44	11	2	*=100
August, 1988 (RVs)	39	45	13	3	*=100
May, 1988	22	46	23	6	3=100
November, 1987	15	28	35	21	1=100

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nomination." In 1988, the story was introduced as being from "this past year" and was listed as "News about the presidential campaign in 1988."

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
September, 1987	14	34	37	14	1=100

Q.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? **[DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE] ? IF "IRAQ" UNSPECIFIED, PROBE: "Do you mean events IN Iraq or the debate over Iraq POLICY?"]**

- 24 News about the current situation and events in Iraq
- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent trip to New York City where he spoke at
- 14 Columbia University and the United Nations
- 12 News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election
- An agreement between General Motors and the United Auto Workers union that ended a two-day
- 9 strike over wages and job security
- 6 The debate in Washington over U.S. policy in Iraq
- 5 Pro-democracy protests by Buddhist monks in Burma
- 10 Some other story (**SPECIFY**)
- 20 Don't know/Refused
- 100