

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JUNE 5-8, 2009 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
TOPLINE
N=1005

NO QUESTION 1

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. Barack Obama’s speech addressed to the Muslim world in Egypt	26	27	18	28	*
b. The murder of a Kansas doctor who performed late term abortions	16	28	22	33	*
c. General Motors declaring bankruptcy	29	37	19	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009: <i>Reports that GM may go into bankruptcy</i>	34	40	17	9	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:¹					
May 1-4, 2009: <i>Financial problems in the U.S. auto industry</i>	32	42	17	8	1
April 24-27, 2009	30	39	16	15	*
April 3-6, 2009	31	35	16	18	*
February 20-23, 2009: <i>U.S. automakers seeking billions in federal loans to avoid bankruptcy</i>	33	34	22	11	*
December 19-22, 2008: <i>Bush administration plan for emergency loans to U.S. automakers</i>	37	33	16	13	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>Debate over a government bailout for U.S. auto industry</i>	40	33	18	9	*
December 5-8, 2008: <i>Debate in Congress over a bailout for U.S. auto industry</i>	34	38	17	11	*
November 21-24, 2008	41	26	17	15	1
November 14-17, 2008: <i>Problems facing U.S. automakers</i>	30	35	20	15	*
October 31-November 3, 2008: <i>Possible merger of GM and Chrysler</i>	16	28	24	31	1
May 18-21, 2007: <i>DaimlerChrysler sells Chrysler</i>	8	20	25	46	1
September 28-October 1, 2007: <i>Agreement between GM and UAW ending strike</i>	14	28	28	30	*

¹ For May 29-June 1, 2009 the item was listed as: “Reports that General Motors may go into bankruptcy.” February 20-23, 2009 asked about: “U.S. automakers seeking billions of dollars in federal loans to avoid bankruptcy.” December 19-22, 2008 asked about “The Bush administration’s plan to provide billions in emergency loans to U.S. automakers.” December 12-15, 2008 asked about “The debate over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry.” November 21-24, 2008 and December 5-8, 2008 asked about “The debate in Congress over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry.” November 14-17, 2008 asked about: “News about problems facing U.S. automakers.” October 31-November 3, 2008 asked about: “The possible merger of automakers General Motors and Chrysler.” May 18-21, 2007 asked about: “DaimlerChrysler’s decision to sell Chrysler to a private equity firm.” January, 1992 and December, 2005 asked about: “The major job cuts announced by General Motors.” June, 1998 asked about: “The merger of the Chrysler Corporation and Daimler Benz.” September 28-October 1, 2007 asked about “An agreement between General Motors and the United Auto Workers union that ended a two-day strike over wages and job security.”

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, 2005: <i>General Motors job cuts</i>	22	30	26	21	1
June, 1998: <i>Chrysler/Daimler Benz merger</i>	12	22	27	38	1
January, 1992: <i>General Motors job cuts</i>	35	38	18	9	*
d. An Air France flight that crashed in the Atlantic Ocean	28	35	20	16	0
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
May 15-18, 2009: <i>The investigation into a February plane crash in Buffalo, New York</i>	17	26	25	33	*
Feb. 13-16, 2009: <i>A plane crashing into a house near Buffalo, New York, killing 50 people</i>	32	39	16	13	*
Jan. 16-19, 2009: <i>Plane landing in Hudson</i>	44	34	14	8	*
November, 2001: <i>Crash of an American Airlines plane near JFK Airport in New York</i>	48	34	13	4	1
February, 2000: <i>Crash of an Alaskan Airlines jet near Los Angeles</i>	35	40	17	8	*
December 1999: <i>Crash of EgyptAir plane off the coast of New England and its investigation</i>	30	44	15	10	1
June, 1999: <i>Crash of an American Airlines flight in Arkansas</i>	19	38	25	17	1
March, 1999: <i>The derailment of an Amtrak train in Illinois</i>	29	39	19	12	1
July 1996: <i>Crash of a Paris-bound TWA plane off the coast of New York</i>	69	23	6	2	*
February 1996: <i>Recent train crashes in Maryland, Colorado and New Jersey</i>	24	40	24	11	1
September, 1993: <i>Amtrak train wreck in Alabama</i>	40	37	15	7	1
February, 1990: <i>Crash of Columbian airliner near JFK airport in New York</i>	33	39	18	10	0
e. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	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	*

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>
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
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	*
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1
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

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>
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
f. The NBA Finals	13	9	12	67	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
June 20-23, 2008: <i>The Boston Celtics winning the NBA Finals</i>	18	17	22	42	1

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.]**

- 22 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 21 An Air France plane crashing into the Atlantic Ocean
- 17 Barack Obama's speech addressed to the Muslim world in Egypt
- 13 General Motors declaring bankruptcy
- 7 The NBA Finals
- 5 The murder of a Kansas doctor who performed late term abortions
- 7 Some other story
- 9 Don't know/Refused

On another topic...

Q.4 Do you think the press has been too critical, not critical enough or fair in the way it has covered Barack Obama?

		Apr 24-27 <u>2009</u>	Mar 27-30, <u>2009</u>	Jan 23-26, <u>2009²</u>	Jan 2-4, <u>2009</u>
16	Too critical	15	18	12	11
26	Not critical enough	26	24	18	23
53	Fair	55	52	64	61
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	6	6	5

Q.5 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a.	Conan O'Brien's premiere as host of The Tonight Show	21	39	40	1

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c.	Rush Limbaugh calling Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor a racist	27	33	40	*
d.	Barack and Michelle Obama going to New York for dinner and a Broadway show	23	36	41	*
e.	NBC News's prime time specials about life inside the Obama White House	15	29	55	*
f.	Reactions in the Muslim world to Barack Obama's speech in Egypt	21	41	37	*
g.	Barack Obama attending a D-Day commemoration in France	23	42	35	*
h.	Michelle Obama and the kids traveling to Paris	9	35	55	1

Q.6 Now I'd like to ask you about where you get most of your news these days. For each item that I read, please tell me if it is something you do regularly, or not. [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		<u>Yes, regularly</u>	<u>No, not regularly</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a.	Watch the local TV news	66	34	*
b.	Watch the Fox New cable channel	38	62	1
c.	Watch MSNBC cable news	25	74	1
d.	Watch CNN cable news	31	68	1

² For Jan. 23-26, 2009, question wording was: "Do you think the press has been too critical, not critical enough or fair in the way it has covered Barack Obama during his first few days in office?" For Jan. 2-4, 2009, question was asked about George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Question wording was: "Do you think the press has been too critical, not critical enough or fair in the way it has covered [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]?"

Q.6 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes, regularly</u>	<u>No, not regularly</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
e. Watch the national nightly network news on CBS, ABC and NBC	40	60	*
f. Read the newspaper	51	49	*
g. Listen to radio news	44	55	1
h. Get news from the internet	51	49	*