

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
April 30-May 3, 2010 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,011

Q.1 What recent news story, if any, have you and your friends been talking about? [OPEN END. PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE. DO NOT READ PRECODE LIST. DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS]?

April 30-May 3

2010

26	Oil leaking into the ocean near Louisiana/Oil rig explosion
12	Arizona's new anti-illegal immigration law
5	Sports
5	Health care/Health care reform
4	Times Square bomb scare
4	Crime
4	Weather
3	Politics/President Obama/Congress
2	Local news (other than crime)
2	Iceland volcano/Volcanic ash over Europe
1	Goldman Sachs' congressional testimony
1	The economy
1	Financial reform proposals/Wall Street reform proposals
1	Sandra Bullock
1	Charlie Crist/Florida governor running for U.S. Senate
*	2010 elections
*	Financial crisis in Greece
*	Sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church
7	Other
20	Don't know/Refused

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
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
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	*

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>
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	*
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

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>
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
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. Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion					
April 30-May 3, 2010	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	*
TREND 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	--

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>
c. Proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions					
April 30-May 3, 2010	19	28	19	33	1
April 23-26, 2010	27	26	20	27	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
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	*
d. Goldman Sachs executives testifying before Congress					
April 30-May 3, 2010	17	25	22	36	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
March 25-29, 1998: <i>Bill Gates' testimony before Congress and the debate over the growing power of Microsoft</i>	8	19	31	41	1
e. A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants					
April 30-May 3, 2010	36	31	13	20	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	23	29	19	29	*
June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>The debate in Congress over new immigration policy</i>	26	30	21	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	24	28	22	26	*
June 15-18, 2007	22	32	21	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	24	29	20	26	1
May 24-27, 2007	27	31	22	19	1
April 12-16, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	29	24	26	*
August, 2006	34	40	16	9	1
June, 2006	36	41	15	7	1
May, 2006	44	33	13	9	1
April, 2006	39	34	16	10	1
December, 1994: <i>Passage of Proposition 187, the California law that bars education, health and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants and their children</i>	26	32	22	20	*
f. The financial crisis in Greece					
April 30-May 3, 2010	6	15	28	51	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
October, 1998: <i>Financial instability around the world</i>	32	40	19	9	*
September, 1998: <i>Economic and political instability in Russia</i>	18	30	28	24	*
Late August, 1998: <i>Economic problems in Russia</i>	8	22	29	41	*
January, 1998: <i>The deepening financial crisis in many Asian countries</i>	15	25	27	33	*

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>
March, 1995: <i>The financial and political instability in Mexico</i>	12	28	30	29	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.]**

Apr 30-May 3

<u>2010</u>	
41	Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion
21	A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants
11	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
5	Goldman Sachs executives testifying before Congress
2	Proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions
1	The financial crisis in Greece
8	Some other story (VOL.)
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.4 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>Don't know</u>
a.	Upcoming elections in Britain April 30-May 3, 2010	6	31	63	*
b.	Florida Governor Charlie Crist's decision to run for the U.S. Senate as an independent April 30-May 3, 2010	17	34	49	*
c.	Sandra Bullock filing for divorce and adopting a baby April 30-May 3, 2010	31	40	29	*
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: March 19-22, 2010 ¹ : <i>Sandra Bullock</i>	33	42	24	1
d.	A fight that broke out in the Ukrainian parliament involving punching, hair pulling, egg throwing and smoke bombs April 30-May 3, 2010	5	27	68	*

¹ Question wording was: "In the news recently, how much if anything, have you heard about each of the following people?"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
April 29-May 2, 2010 NEWS KNOWLEDGE OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,009

READ TO ALL: Next I'd like to ask about some things that have been in the news. Please answer as best you can. If you don't know the answer just tell me and we'll move to the next question.

RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5

PEW1 Which financial institution is being sued by the government for fraud? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Apr 29-May 2

2010

67	Goldman Sachs <i>{Correct}</i>
3	Citigroup
4	Bank of America
4	JPMorgan Chase
22	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5

PEW2 Which state recently passed a law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Apr 29-May 2

2010

79	Arizona <i>{Correct}</i>
6	California
2	Florida
2	Alabama
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5

PEW3 After a recent explosion on an oil drilling platform, oil is leaking into the ocean off the coast of what state? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Apr 29-May 2

2010

82	Louisiana <i>{Correct}</i>
5	California
3	North Carolina
3	Maine
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5

PEW4 Which of the following European countries is facing a financial crisis that might require a bailout from other European countries? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Apr 29-May 2

2010

49	Greece <i>{Correct}</i>
6	Germany
3	Sweden
7	France
35	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5

PEW5 A governor who is currently running for a seat in the U.S. Senate recently announced a plan to run as an independent candidate rather than as a Republican? Was this... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Apr 29-May 2

2010

44	Charlie Crist in Florida <i>{Correct}</i>
7	Sarah Palin in Alaska
6	Tim Pawlenty in Minnesota
2	Haley Barbour in Mississippi
41	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)