

YouGov/ Economist Survey Results

Sample Size: 2118

Fieldwork: 18th - 20th February 2008

For detailed results, [click here](#)

	%
Headline Voting Intention	
Con	40
Lab	34
Lib Dem	16
SNP	4
Other	7
Non Voters	
Will not vote	9
<i>Don't know</i>	13
Do you think that Alistair Darling is doing a good job or a bad job as Chancellor of the Exchequer?	
Good job	13
Bad job	52
<i>Don't know</i>	35
As you probably know, the Government has announced that it is to nationalise the troubled bank, Northern Rock.	
Which ONE of these do you think is MOST responsible for the bank getting into such difficulties?	
The management of Northern Rock	60
International financial conditions	14
Britain's government	5
Britain's bank regulators – the Bank of England and Financial Services Authority	10
<i>Don't know</i>	10
How would you rate the Government's handling of Northern Rock over the past few months?	
Excellent	1
Good	10
Fair	27
Poor	30
Awful	21
<i>Not sure</i>	11
Which ONE of these statements comes closest to your own view?	
'Government ministers have taken far too much time to make up their minds and dithered over Northern Rock'	58
'Government ministers acted reasonably in taking time to try to find a private buyer for the bank'	29
<i>Don't know</i>	13

If the Conservatives had been in government do you think they would have handled this issue better or worse than the present government or about the same?

Conservatives would have handled it better	21
Neither better nor worse	47
Conservatives would have handled it worse	16
<i>Don't know</i>	15

Which of these policies do you think would have been best?

The Government should have accepted the best offer from the the private sector, even if it was not as good as the government hoped	40
The Government is right to nationalise the bank with a view to selling back to the private sector as soon as conditions are right	32
The Government is right to nationalise the bank and it should remain in public ownership for the long term	8
<i>Don't know</i>	20

How much money should the government pay Northern Rock's shareholders in compensation now that the bank has been nationalised?

The company's full value before last September's problems become known, of around £5 per share, or around £2,000 million in total	13
The company's market value immediately before nationalisation, of just under £1 per share, or around £400 million in total	32
Nothing at all: Northern Rock's shareholders should not receive any compensation	33
<i>Don't know</i>	23

The Government is now responsible for Northern Rock's liabilities of around £100 billion – equivalent to around £1,700 per person living in Britain. The Government says that the bank's assets are greater than this. Nobody can be certain how things will end up, but...

Which ONE of the following do you think is MOST likely? Do you think the Government will...?

Get all of this money back in due course	13
Get most of this money back	19
Get some of this money back	44
Get none of this money back	12
<i>Not sure</i>	12

The Conservatives have announced that they will oppose the legislation this week to nationalise Northern Rock.

Which of these do you think is the MAIN reason the Conservatives are doing this?

They genuinely think nationalisation is the wrong policy and would probably do something DIFFERENT if they were in office	29
They are 'playing politics' and would probably do MUCH THE SAME as the government is now doing if they were in office	59
<i>Don't know</i>	12

Do you think Northern Rock is a 'one-off' or do you think it is likely that another major British bank will find itself in serious trouble in the near future?

Northern Rock is a one-off	38
Another major bank is likely to get into trouble in the near future	40
<i>Don't know</i>	22