

YOUNGOV / SUNDAY TIMES SURVEY

Sample 1,757, fieldwork Oct 5-6, 2007

For full results [click here](#)

Voting intention	June 14-15	July 19-20	Aug 9-10	Sept 13-14	Sept 26-28	Oct 5-6	<i>Oct 5-6 certain to vote</i>
Conservative	37	33	32	34	32	41	45
Labour	35	40	42	39	43	38	36
Liberal Democrat	14	15	14	15	15	11	9
Others	14	12	12	12	10	10	10
Lead	C2	L7	L10	L5	L11	C3	C 9
Doing well or badly?							
Gordon Brown as PM							
Well			65	62		59	
Badly			17	23		29	
Don't know			18	15		12	
David Cameron as Conservative leader							
Well			29	35		54	
Badly			55	50		34	
Don't know			16	15		12	
David Cameron if he were PM							
Well			27			41	
Badly			51			41	
Don't know			22			19	

Thinking about Prime Minister Gordon Brown, which of the following qualities do you think he has?

And now thinking about David Cameron, the leader of the Conservative Party, which of the following qualities do you think he has?

	Brown			Cameron		
	July %	Oct %	Change	July %	Oct %	Change
Sticks to what he believes in	44	40	-4	12	17	5
Strong	35	40	5	8	12	4
Decisive	32	37	5	9	14	5
Good in a crisis	16	27	11	5	6	1
Honest	25	22	-3	13	20	7
In touch with the concerns of ordinary people	20	20	0	17	23	6
A natural leader	11	17	6	14	14	0
Charismatic	4	1	-3	32	34	2
None of these	25	24	-1	34	27	-7
Don't know	13	10	-3	22	18	-4

The Prime Minister is reported to be considering holding a general election in early November.

Q. Do you think a general election would be in the national interest, or just for the benefit of Gordon Brown and the Labour party?

	%
In the national interest	32
Just for the benefit of Gordon Brown and Labour	40
Neither	18
Don't know	10

Q. Do you think an election is necessary now, because Gordon Brown was not leader of the Labour Party at the last election, or unnecessary, because Labour has a clear majority and the next election need not be held until 2009 or 2010?

Election is necessary	38
Election is not necessary	49
Don't know	13

If Gordon Brown does NOT call an Autumn election, which of these statements would come closer to your view...?

It would be a sign of weakness that showed he feared Labour doing badly in an early election	43
It would be a sign of strength that showed his determination to carry on governing the country	34
Don't know	23

Q. Do you agree or disagree with these statements:	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
	%	%	%
'Gordon Brown has been cynical and manipulative by effectively running an election campaign since he took over as prime minister.'	39	38	23
'Gordon Brown has been considering an early election because he fears the economy is heading for trouble'	36	34	30

Q. Has Mr Brown's recent conduct, such as travelling to Iraq to announce troop reductions during the Conservative conference, affected your opinion of him for the better or worse?

I think better of him	12
I think worse of him	26
No difference	59
Don't know	4

	Brown	Cameron	Neither	Don't know
	%	%	%	%
Who do you regard as more trustworthy, Gordon Brown or David Cameron?	39	26	28	8
Who do you think has the more optimistic and forward-looking vision for Britain?	32	37	20	11
Which of the two main parties will do more to support the family?				
Labour	30			
Conservative	33			
Neither	20			
Don't know	17			
Do you think the Conservative party has changed under David Cameron?				
Yes, it has changed for the better	38			
Yes, it has changed for the worse	10			
No, it has not really changed at all	38			
Don't know	14			

In its last election manifesto Labour promised a referendum on the EU constitution. Gordon Brown is refusing to hold a referendum on the proposed EU reform treaty even though the Conservative party and others say it is very similar to the constitution. Will Gordon Brown's refusal make any difference to the way you vote in a general election?

Yes, it will make me more likely to vote Labour	3
Yes, it will make me more likely to vote for parties other than Labour	21
No, it will make no difference – I would vote Labour anyway	24
No, it will make no difference – I would NOT vote Labour anyway	32
Don't know	20

Which two or three of the following issues will matter most to you in deciding how to vote if there is a November election?

And who would you trust more to take the right decisions on each of the following issues...?

		Trust most			
	Matter Most %	Lab / Brown	Con / Cameron	Neither	Not sure
Crime / law and order	41	25	35	24	17
Immigration	40	18	38	26	18
Health	33	33	26	23	18
Economy generally	33	40	25	26	18
Tax	33	27	36	21	16
Education	18	31	27	22	19
Pensions	18	24	24	29	23
Environment / climate change	12	24	21	32	23
Europe	12	25	29	25	21
Iraq	10	23	21	32	24
Housing	10	30	19	28	23
Transport	6	26	19	31	24

Who would you trust more to raise you and your family's standard of living?

	July	Oct
	%	%
A Labour government led by Gordon Brown	30	30
A Conservative government led by David Cameron	24	31
Neither	34	27
Don't know	13	13

	Good policy %	Bad policy %	Don't know %
The Conservative party this week proposed raising the threshold for inheritance tax from £300,000 to £1m. Do you think this is a good or a bad policy?	66	18	16

The Conservatives also proposed exempting first time home-buyers from stamp duty for properties up to £250,000. Do you think this is a good or a bad policy?	79	9	11
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Taking the Conservatives' plans as a whole, do you agree or disagree with these statements?

	Agree	Disagree	Neither	Don't know
	%	%	%	%
'The Conservatives' sums on tax don't add up'	32	22	8	38
'The Conservative tax proposals were an act of desperation because the party is trailing in the polls and worried about a big election defeat.'	44	31	11	15

Do you believe that a Conservative government would mean lower taxes than a Labour government?	%
Yes – A Conservative government would mean lower taxes	27
No – a Conservative government would keep taxes at about the same overall level	39
No – a Conservative government would mean higher taxes than Labour	13
Don't know	20

Some military charities and members of the armed forces have criticised the government for breaking the 'military covenant' by not ensuring that servicemen and women injured in Iraq and Afghanistan are properly cared for when they return to Britain. From what you have heard or read, do you think the government is guilty of failing the armed forces in this way, or not?

Yes, has broken the military covenant	59
No, has does what it reasonably can to care for injured service personnel	14
Don't know	27

How do you react if and when you hear stories of injured service personnel being not properly cared for?

I feel angry	60
I don't feel angry – I suspect that the stories sometimes exaggerate the problem	20
I am not aware of such stories	10
Don't know	11