

# YouGov / Sunday Times Survey Results

**Sample Size: 1941**

**Fieldwork: 9th - 10th October 2008**

For detailed results, [click here](#)

%

## Headline Voting Intention

*[Excluding Don't Knows and Wouldn't Vote]*

Con	<b>43</b>
Lab	<b>33</b>
Lib Dem	<b>14</b>
Other	<b>10</b>

## Do you think Gordon Brown is doing well or badly as prime minister?

Very well	<b>4</b>
Fairly well	<b>27</b>
Fairly badly	<b>34</b>
Very badly	<b>31</b>
Don't know	<b>5</b>

## Do you think David Cameron is doing well or badly as Conservative leader?

Very well	<b>10</b>
Fairly well	<b>48</b>
Fairly badly	<b>21</b>
Very badly	<b>11</b>
Don't know	<b>11</b>

## Do you think Nick Clegg is doing well or badly as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

Very well	<b>2</b>
Fairly well	<b>30</b>
Fairly badly	<b>23</b>
Very badly	<b>11</b>
Don't know	<b>34</b>

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

Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling	<b>25</b>
David Cameron and George Osborne	<b>34</b>
Neither	<b>32</b>
Don't know	<b>10</b>

## In your opinion, how good or bad is the state of Britain's economy at the moment?

Very good	<b>0</b>
Quite good	<b>1</b>
Neither good nor bad	<b>7</b>
Quite bad	<b>38</b>
Very bad	<b>52</b>
Don't know	<b>1</b>

**Over the next 12 months do you think Britain's economy will...**

Grow at a faster rate than over the past 12 months	1
Grow at about the same rate	2
Grow more slowly	17
Not grow at all	25
Go into recession	51
Don't know	4

**Do you think house prices in your area will rise or fall over the next 12 months?**

Rise by more than 10%	1
Rise by less than 10%	3
Stay about the same	15
Fall by less than 10%	36
Fall by more than 10%	39
Don't know	6

**Which of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your view?**

'Whatever the short-term problems we face today, the free market system, with its risks and rewards, is the best way to increase prosperity; it would be a mistake to do anything that curbs enterprise and limits the freedom of companies, investors and employees to take their own decisions'	20
'The free market system offers both advantages and disadvantages; the time has come to change the balance so that there is less freedom and more regulation, with the Government setting tougher rules to ensure that companies behave responsibly'	54
'The free market system is fundamentally flawed; Britain would be more prosperous if far more companies were owned by the Government and/or their own workforce'	12
Don't know	14

**Do you fear that you or a close member of your family will lose their job as a result of the current financial crisis?**

Yes, I do fear this	39
No, I don't	35
Not sure	20
Not applicable – neither I nor any close member of my family is currently working	6

**From what you have seen, do you think Gordon Brown is handling the financial crisis well or badly?**

Well	29
Badly	37
Neither	27
Don't know	7

**Who would you trust more to handle this crisis?**

Gordon Brown & Alistair Darling	33
David Cameron & George Osborne	27
Neither	30
Don't know	11

**The government has announced a comprehensive rescue plan for UK banks, including up to £50 billion of new capital, up to £250 billion of government guarantees and up to £200 billion of lending.**

**Do you broadly support or oppose this plan?**

- Support - it was probably necessary if Britain's financial system was not to collapse **59**
- Oppose - taxpayers should not bail out the banks **32**
- Don't know **9**

**Do you think as a condition of this support, the top executives who run the banks should be made to quit?**

- Yes - the executives have failed and should be made to quit **54**
- No - it would be better for the executives to stay and clear up the mess **35**
- Don't know **10**

**Should the government have gone further and nationalised the banks?**

- Yes, the government should have nationalised the banks **23**
- No, it should not **54**
- Don't know **23**

**Do you think the Government has been too hasty in responding to the present crisis, or too slow, or got the balance about right?**

- Government has been too hasty **5**
- Government has been too slow **53**
- Government has got balance about right **31**
- Don't know **12**

**Nobody can be certain, but what do you think is the likeliest outcome of the Government's rescue plan for British banks?**

- Taxpayers will end up losing a lot of money propping up Britain's banks **39**
- Taxpayers will end up losing some money but not too much **28**
- Taxpayers will end up neither losing money nor making a profit **13**
- Taxpayers will end up making a profit, as the economy recovers and bank shares rise in value **9**
- Don't know **11**

**Do you think money deposited in major British banks is safe?**

- Yes, in practice all deposits are safe, because the Government will not allow a major bank to go bust and cause savers to lose money **24**
- Yes, but only up to the deposit protection limit of £50,000 **49**
- No I don't think any money in a major British bank is completely safe **21**
- Don't know **6**

**Have you taken steps to protect your savings in the past few weeks, either by taking money out of your bank or moving it between banks?**

- Yes - I have **12**
- No - I have not **85**
- Don't know **3**

**Economists talk about 'recession' when the economy stops growing and contracts a little; and they talk about 'depression' when the economy contracts a lot as it did in the slump in the 1930's. Looking ahead what do you think will happen to Britain's economy over the next few years?**

Britain will avoid a recession and get back to normal over the next year or so	<b>5</b>
Britain will have a mild recession and unemployment will go up but then things will slowly pick up, as in the early 1990s	<b>66</b>
Britain will have a depression, worse than the early 1990s and reminiscent of the 1930s	<b>20</b>
Not sure	<b>10</b>

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

**Gordon Brown was a successful Chancellor, and he has the experience needed to steer Britain's economy through this crisis**

Agree	<b>37</b>
Disagree	<b>47</b>
Don't know	<b>16</b>

**Gordon Brown mismanaged Britain's public finances when he was Chancellor, and he will use the crisis as an excuse for raising taxes.**

Agree	<b>49</b>
Disagree	<b>34</b>
Don't know	<b>18</b>

**If action is needed to cut the budget deficit would you prefer to see higher taxes or reductions in public spending?**

Higher taxes	<b>21</b>
Reductions in public spending	<b>62</b>
Don't know	<b>17</b>

**If the government had to cut spending, and could not save enough by improving efficiency and cutting out waste, in which one or two of these would you most like to see spending reduced? [Please tick up to two items]**

Other social security benefits	<b>48</b>
Defence	<b>39</b>
Transport	<b>21</b>
Education	<b>6</b>
State pensions	<b>3</b>
Health	<b>3</b>
Other areas	<b>34</b>
Don't know	<b>10</b>

**Has the financial turbulence made you concerned about your own future pension, and how much your income in retirement will be?**

Yes it has	<b>45</b>
No, it is a long way away	<b>27</b>
Don't know	<b>9</b>
Not applicable	<b>19</b>

**Do you expect to work longer, delaying your retirement, because of the risk that your pension may not be as high as you were expecting?**

Yes, I do expect to delay my retirement	<b>30</b>
No, I do not	<b>26</b>
Don't know	<b>16</b>
Not applicable	<b>27</b>

**In general, do you think public sector workers, such as civil servants local government officials, teachers and NHS employees, have higher or lower salaries than people with equivalent skills, responsibilities and experience in the private sector?**

Public sector workers generally have higher salaries	<b>24</b>
Public sector workers generally have lower salaries	<b>49</b>
Public sector workers generally have similar salaries	<b>17</b>
Don't know	<b>10</b>

**Many public sector workers enjoy final salary pensions, where their income in retirement is a proportion, usually two-thirds, of their final salary. Many private sector workers, in contrast, have lower pensions.**

**Do you think**

Current arrangements for public sector workers should continue	<b>37</b>
They should be brought into line with most private sector workers	<b>50</b>
Don't know	<b>13</b>

**Gordon Brown last week recalled Peter Mandelson from Brussels and appointed him business secretary with a seat in the House of Lords.**

**Do you think this was a good or a bad appointment?**

Good	<b>17</b>
Bad	<b>41</b>
Neither	<b>17</b>
Don't know	<b>25</b>

**Do you like or dislike Peter Mandelson?**

I like him	<b>6</b>
I dislike him	<b>41</b>
Neither like nor dislike	<b>44</b>
Don't know	<b>10</b>

**Which of these views comes closer to your own?**

Peter Mandelson used to be associated with spin and sleaze. Leopards don't change their spots, so his return to government will end in tears	<b>50</b>
Whatever happened in the past, Peter Mandelson is now committed to working harmoniously with Gordon Brown to ensure economic recovery	<b>22</b>
Don't know	<b>28</b>

**How long do you think Peter Mandelson will stay in the cabinet on this occasion?**

Up to six months	<b>12</b>
6-12 months	<b>21</b>
Until the next election	<b>38</b>
Beyond the next election if Labour wins again	<b>7</b>
Don't know	<b>23</b>