

YouGov / Sunday Times Survey Results

Sample Size: 2025 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 15th - 16th October 2009
For more detailed results [click here](#)

%

Headline Voting Intention

[Excluding Don't Knows and Wouldn't Votes]

Con	41
Lab	30
Lib Dem	17
Other	12

Other Parties Voting Intention

UKIP	4
SNP / PCY	3
BNP	2
Green	2
Respect	0
Other	1

Non Voters

Would Not Vote	8
Don't know	13

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

Very well	4
Fairly well	24
TOTAL WELL	28
Fairly badly	33
Very badly	34
TOTAL BADLY	67
Don't know	5

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

Very well	11
Fairly well	48
TOTAL WELL	58
Fairly badly	20
Very badly	11
TOTAL BADLY	31
Don't know	10

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

Very well	4
Fairly well	40
TOTAL WELL	44
Fairly badly	23
Very badly	8
TOTAL BADLY	31
Don't know	25

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

Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling	24
David Cameron and George Osborne	31
Neither	36
Don't know	9

How good or bad is the state of the economy at present?

Very good	1
Fairly good	5
TOTAL GOOD	6
Neither good nor bad	15
Fairly bad	46
Very bad	30
TOTAL BAD	77
Don't know	3

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	40
No I don't	31
Not sure	22
Not applicable – neither I nor any close member of my family is currently working	7

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

Rise by more than 10%	4
Rise by less than 10%	30
TOTAL RISE	34
Stay about the same	45
Fall by less than 10%	9
Fall by more than 10%	3
TOTAL FALL	12
Don't know	9

Do you think Labour would do better or worse at the next general election if it replaced Gordon Brown and chose a new leader?

Labour would do better if it replaced Gordon Brown	35
Labour would do about the same	44
Labour would do worse if it replaced Gordon Brown	10
Don't know	11

Turning to the issue of MPs' expenses, an inquiry has been held by the retired civil servant, Sir Thomas Legg.

He says a large number of MPs should return expenses they have received, because their claims were not 'reasonable'. Some MPs say that they were only obeying the rules at the time and should not therefore be required to pay anything back.

What is your view?

MPs should be made to pay up even if they obeyed the rules at the time	65
MPs are right to say that the rules cannot be changed retrospectively	28
Don't know	7

David Cameron has said MPs who don't pay up will not be allowed to stand as Conservative candidates at the next election, even if they obeyed the rules at the time.

Is he right or wrong to require such MPs to pay up?

Mr Cameron is right	69
Mr Cameron is wrong	20
Don't know	11

What is your general view of MPs and expenses?

Many MPs were dishonest in the past and still are	73
Many MPs were dishonest but have learned their lesson	20
Don't know	7

Do you think the average MP is more honest or less honest than the average voter?

Average MP is more honest than the average voter	2
Average MP is neither more honest nor less honest	47
Average MP is less honest than the average voter	46
Don't know	5

The next general election must be held by next June. Do you think it should be brought forward and held immediately to purge parliament of MPs who abused the expenses system?

Yes the election should be held immediately	38
No it can wait until next spring	53
Don't know	9

Some voters say they might vote for one of the smaller political parties, or not vote at all, instead of voting for Labour, the Conservatives or Liberal Democrats, because of the expenses issue.

Would you seriously consider doing this because of this issue?

Yes, I would definitely consider switching to a smaller party or not voting at all	16
Yes I might consider switching or not voting	20
No I would probably not consider switching or not voting	23
No I would definitely not consider switching or not voting	31
Don't know	10

A number of MPs are standing down at the next election following disclosures about their expenses. In general do you think the new MPs in the next Parliament will be more honest or less honest than the MPs they replace?

New MPs will be more honest	33
New MPs will be neither more honest nor less honest	55
New MPs will be less honest	2
Don't know	10

Despite the exposure of abuse of expenses in the House of Lords the authorities there have yet to order an investigation. Should there be an official investigation?

Yes there should	84
No there is no need	10
Don't know	6

Have you or people you know ever fiddled expenses by claiming more than you strictly should have done?

Yes I have done so	8
No I have not done so but I know colleagues who have	29
No I have not done so and don't know anyone who has	44
Don't know	4
Not applicable - I have never been in a position to claim expenses	15

Turning to other topics...

The British National Party leader Nick Griffin will appear on the BBC's Question Time programme next week. Which of the following best fits your view?

The BBC was RIGHT to invite him, as the BNP has two members of the European Parliament	63
The BBC was WRONG to give him, as it should not provide a platform for someone with such extreme and objectionable views	23
Don't know	14

What is your view on British troops in Afghanistan?

They should stay as long as is necessary to establish peace	19
They should be brought back home over the next 12 to 18 months, after handing over to the Afghan army	48
They should be brought home immediately	25
Don't know	8

It is likely that the European Union will soon operate under a new treaty, the Lisbon Treaty. If there were a referendum in Britain on the Lisbon Treaty would you vote for or against?

For	18
Against	41
Don't know / would not vote	41

One of the Treaty's provisions is that the European Union should have a President who will chair major meetings, and represent the EU at major gatherings round the world.

Tony Blair is currently favourite to be President of the European Union, though there are possible candidates from other countries.

Would you support or oppose Mr Blair becoming president?

Support Mr Blair becoming EU President	38
Oppose - the President should come from another country	38
Don't know	24

The President of the European Union will be chosen by the heads of the 27 governments of the EU. Do you think the President should be...?

Appointed by the heads of the 27 governments	27
Elected directly by the people of the European Union	61
Don't know	12