



The U.S.-Global Leadership Project

A Partnership Between the Meridian International Center and Gallup

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The U.S.-Global Leadership Project is a joint effort between the Meridian International Center and Gallup to provide a comprehensive assessment of how the world views the leadership of the United States. The Project teams Gallup's unique global public opinion data from more than 150 countries with Meridian's leadership-focused context to create a powerful and useful barometer of the perceptions of U.S. leadership.

Global attitudes shape political decisions and market opportunities. Understanding the perspectives that people in different countries have of U.S. leadership, and the factors shaping their opinions, is a useful tool for policy-makers and business leaders. The U.S.-Global Leadership Project will 1) give public- and private-sector leaders a better understanding of what is driving global views of U.S. leadership; 2) create a context for collaboration on how to improve those views; and 3) enhance U.S. public and private global engagement efforts.

The U.S.-Global Leadership Track

A barometer of global perspectives on U.S. leadership

The U.S.-Global Leadership Track is the largest global public opinion study of views about U.S. leadership. The viewpoints of citizens around the world serve as an important indicator of U.S. leadership during a time of global economic difficulty.

This report includes U.S. leadership approval data from more than 100 countries that Gallup has collected since the Obama administration took office. The Track ultimately will feature data from more than 150 countries.

The U.S.-Global Leadership Track

With ongoing research projects in more than 150 countries, Gallup is a leader in the collection and analysis of global data and measurements. Gallup's data provide sound evidence on many issues that more than 98% of the world's adult population faces. Throughout 2009, Gallup conducted surveys in more than 100 countries, asking ordinary citizens for their thoughts and opinions on several topics, including economics, religion, wellbeing, and migration, and for their views on the job performance of the leadership of different countries, including the United States.

Across 102 countries surveyed in 2009, median approval of U.S. leadership is 51%, median disapproval is 21%, and a median of 22% do not offer an opinion about U.S. leadership.

Gallup has been asking residents worldwide to rate the leadership of the U.S. since 2005, which enables a comparison of how perceptions of U.S. leadership have changed from the Bush administration to the Obama administration.



Changes in Sentiment

Approval of U.S. leadership changed significantly in 16 of the 17 G-20 countries where data were collected before and after the Obama administration took office early last year. In 15 of these countries, approval ratings of the leadership of the U.S. increased substantially, with increases of 39 percentage points or more in Canada, France, and the United Kingdom. Only in India and Indonesia did approval decline; however, disapproval of U.S. leadership also declined. The number of respondents in these two countries who did not have an opinion increased significantly between polling periods.

Worldwide Perceptions of U.S. Leadership

Regional Highlights

Historically, approval of U.S. leadership has been highest in sub-Saharan Africa. This trend continues in 2009, with a median approval of 87%, which is well above the median approval in other regions. Although approval is lowest in the Middle East and North Africa region, it did increase in a number of countries in this area between 2008 and 2009.

<i>Do approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?</i>			
Regional medians			
	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know/Refused
Sub-Saharan Africa	87%	9%	2%
Europe	55%	14%	22%
Americas	53%	18%	29%
Asia	41%	22%	30%
Former Soviet Union	41%	24%	37%
Middle East and North Africa	34%	52%	11%

Europe (excluding former Soviet Union countries)

- Out of the eight European countries polled in 2008 and 2009, approval of U.S. leadership rose by at least 25 points in seven countries. Approval of U.S. leadership remained unchanged in Romania over the same period.
- U.S. leadership approval is lowest in Serbia (14%) and highest in Kosovo (88%). These sentiments are likely attributable to U.S. support for Kosovo's independence from Serbia.
- Across 16 European countries polled in 2009, a median of 22% do not express an opinion about the leadership of the U.S.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?
 Europe (excluding former Soviet Union countries)

Country	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know/ Refused	Field date	Approval difference from 2008
Kosovo	88%	9%	3%	Sep 8-Sep 24, 2009	-
Ireland	80%	9%	11%	Apr 17-Apr 27, 2009	57
Albania	78%	6%	16%	Sep 7-Oct 2, 2009	-
Macedonia	62%	20%	18%	Sep 10-Sep 22, 2009	-
United Kingdom	64%	12%	25%	Apr 17-May 6, 2009	41
Slovenia	58%	24%	18%	Apr 16-May 5, 2009	-
Germany	57%	30%	13%	Sep 28-Oct 18, 2009	36
Croatia	56%	15%	30%	Sep 4-Sep 28, 2009	-
Spain	54%	12%	34%	Apr 14-Apr 24, 2009	46
France	52%	14%	34%	Apr 16-May 18, 2009	39
Italy	49%	6%	45%	Apr 21-May 6, 2009	30
Romania	47%	12%	41%	Mar 3-Apr 5, 2009	-
Greece	41%	38%	21%	Oct 1-Oct 15, 2009	25
Montenegro	34%	39%	27%	Sep 6-Sep 21, 2009	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	25%	53%	23%	Sep 8-Sep 30, 2009	-
Serbia	14%	71%	15%	Sep 4-Sep 17, 2009	-

Due to rounding, not all rows will add to 100%.
 - Data for this item not collected in 2008.



Middle East/North Africa

- Since 2008, approval of U.S. leadership has meaningfully increased in 9 of 10 countries in the region.

Worldwide Perceptions of U.S. Leadership

Moving Forward

The results from the U.S.-Global Leadership Track create more questions than they answer. The Meridian International Center and Gallup are committed to improving international relations by bringing leaders together to discuss global perceptions of the U.S. through the U.S.-Global Leadership Project. Ongoing assessments of perceptions of U.S. leadership around the world, combined with expert analysis, will serve to better inform policy-makers and business leaders about the position of the United States and create a foundation from which to build stronger international cooperation.

Methodology

Results are based on face-to-face and telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted throughout 2008 and 2009 in 102 countries. For results based on the total samples, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 2.8 percentage points in Russia to ± 5.7 percentage points in Slovenia. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

With some exceptions, all samples are probability based and nationally representative of the resident population aged 15 and older. Exceptions include areas where the safety of interviewing staff is threatened, scarcely populated islands in some countries, and areas that interviewers can reach only by foot, animal, or small boat.

Sample Notes

Algeria: The sparsely populated deep South was excluded. Excluded areas represent less than 10% of the population.

Azerbaijan: Nagorno-Karabakh and territories not included for safety of interviewers. These areas represent less than 10% of the total population.

Bahrain: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that approximately one-fourth of the adult population is excluded.

Canada: Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut were excluded from the sample.

Georgia: South Ossetia and Abkhazia were not included for the safety of the interviewers. The excluded area represents approximately 7% of the population.

India: Excluded population living in Northeast states and remote islands. The excluded areas represent less than 10% of the population.

Kuwait: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that approximately one-fifth of the adult population is excluded.

Moldova: Transnistria (Prednestrovia) was excluded for safety of interviewers. The excluded area represents approximately 13% of the population.

Niger: The Northern part of the country (Agadez region) was excluded because of insecurities. The excluded area represents approximately 5% of the population.

Pakistan: FATA and AJK were excluded. The excluded areas represent approximately 5% of the population.

Palestinian Territories: The sample includes East Jerusalem.

Qatar: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that more than half of the adult population is excluded.

Saudi Arabia: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that approximately one-fifth of the adult population is excluded.

Sri Lanka: Excluded areas under conflict in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka. The excluded area represents approximately 10% of the population.

Uganda: The Northern region was excluded because of the presence of LRA rebels. The excluded area represents approximately 10% of the population.

United Arab Emirates: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that more than half of the adult population is excluded.

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