

# Ipsos MORI March Political Monitor

## Topline Results

Fieldwork: 17-19 March 2012

CON 36 (+1); LAB 37 (-4); LIB DEM 11 (-1)

### Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,014 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

Where percentages do not sum to 100 this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of “don’t know” categories, or multiple answers. An asterisk (\*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote, are undecided or refuse to name a party and in the headline figures, those who are not absolutely certain to vote. Data are based on all adults unless otherwise stated.

## Voting intention

Voting intention polls between elections are a measurement of how a representative sample of the public think they would vote at a given point in time. Voting intentions in “peacetime” (non-election periods, such as this one) should be regarded as useful indicators of the political mood rather than predictions of a future electoral result. Voting intentions should be read in conjunction with other political indicators.

### Voting intentions: those “absolutely certain to vote”

We regard the voting intentions of those “absolutely certain to vote” as the most useful trend indicator, since it includes only those voters whose frame of mind is nearest to those who actually vote at elections. Please note that this measure is not based on the assumption that this is the group who will vote at the next general election, as this population are not accurately identifiable at this stage of a parliament.

Please also note that the ‘margin of error’ on these figures is c.±4% for each figure; this means that a party share figure of 30% could actually fall anywhere between 26% and 34%, though it is far more likely to fall at 30% than at the extreme ends of this range. This is especially important to keep in mind when calculating party lead figures.

Around half, 58%, say they are ‘absolutely certain to vote’ in an immediate General Election.

Q1a **How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?**

IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q1a

Q1b **Which party are you most inclined to support?**

<i>Base: All absolutely certain to vote (591)</i>		Q1a/b %
Conservative		36
Labour		37
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)		11
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist		3
Green Party		5
UK Independence Party		4
British National Party		1
Other		3
<b>Conservative lead (±%)</b>		<b>-1</b>
<i>Would not vote</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Undecided</i>		<i>5</i>
<i>Refused</i>		<i>1</i>

**Voting intentions: all naming a party**

The voting intention figures based on all those giving a voting intention is the measure with the longest pedigree; our regular trends on this basis go back to the 1970s. When turnouts were much higher than is usual today, this offered a good approximation to actual voting behaviour; in more recent years it has over-represented Labour’s real electoral strength, since more supporters of Labour than of other parties fail to vote.

Q1a **How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?**

IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q1a

Q1b **Which party are you most inclined to support?**

Base: 830 British adults 18+

	%
Conservative	35
Labour	38
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	12
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	3
Green Party	5
UK Independence Party	3
British National Party	1
Other	2
<b>Conservative lead (+%)</b>	<b>-3</b>
<i>Would not vote</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Undecided</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Refused</i>	<i>1</i>

**Certainty of voting**

Q2 **And how likely would you be to vote in an immediate General Election, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means you would be absolutely certain to vote, and 1 means that you would be absolutely certain not to vote?**

Base: 1,014 British adults 18+

	%
10 – absolutely certain to vote	58
9	4
8	7
7	5
6	3
5	7
4	2
3	3
2	1
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	8
Don't Know	1
Refused	*

## Satisfaction Ratings

### Satisfaction among general public aged 18+

- Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?
- Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way David Cameron is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Ed Miliband is doing his job as leader of the Labour Party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Nick Clegg is doing his job as Deputy Prime Minister?

Base: 1,014 British adults 18+

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know	Net satisfaction
	%	%	%	±
Government (Q3)	32	60	8	-28
Cameron (Q4)	41	52	7	-11
Miliband (Q5)	34	52	14	-18
Clegg (Q6)	32	59	10	-27

BASE: PARTY SUPPORTERS ONLY

- Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?
- Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way David Cameron is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Ed Miliband is doing his job as leader of the Labour Party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Nick Clegg is doing his job as Deputy Prime Minister?

Base: All party supporters (\*Government is based on Conservative and Lib Dem supporters)

		Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know	Net satisfaction
	Base	%	%	%	±
Government (Q3)	382	57	35	9	+22
Cameron (Q4)	286	81	14	5	+67
Miliband (Q5)	334	46	45	9	+1
Clegg (Q6)	96	51	41	8	+10

## Economic optimism in Britain

- Q7 Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?

Base: 1,014 British adults 18+

	%
Improve	29
Stay the same	25
Get worse	43
Don't know	2
<b>Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)</b>	<b>-14</b>

- Q8 On balance, do you agree or disagree with each the following statement:  
 “In the long term, this government’s policies will improve the state of Britain’s economy”?

Base: 1,014 British adults

	Nov 2009	June 2010	Sept 2010	Oct 2010	Jan 2011	Mar 2012
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	40	61	57	48	49	46
Disagree	54	29	36	39	43	47
Don't know	6	11	7	13	8	6
<b>Net agree</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>+21</b>	<b>+9</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>-1</b>

- Q9 Some people say that the impact of the economic crisis in Britain has already reached its peak and things will slowly begin to recover. Others disagree and say that the worst is still to come. Which of these statements is closest to your opinion?

Base: 1,014 British adults 18+

	%
The impact of the crisis has already reached his peak	41
The worst is still to come	56
Don't know	3

- Q10 Who do you think would make the most capable Chancellor, the Conservative’s George Osborne or Labour’s Ed Balls?

Base: 1,014 British adults 18+

	March 2011	March 2012
	%	%
George Osborne	35	36
Ed Balls	36	35
Neither	17	14
Don't know	12	15

- Q11 On Wednesday, the Chancellor George Osborne will make his Budget statement. This will outline the government’s tax and spending plans.

Who, if anyone, do you think will benefit the most from the measures the Chancellor will announce in the Budget next week?

Base: 1,014 British adults 18+

	%
Those on low incomes	17
Those on middle incomes	18
Those on high incomes	50
Non-one will benefit	4
Budget will affect everyone equally	2
Don't know	8