

Reuters/ Ipsos MORI May Political Monitor

FINAL RESULTS

Fieldwork: 20-24 May 2011

CON 35(-5); LAB 42(+2); LIB DEM 10(+1)

Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,008 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone 20th-24th May 2011. 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.

Over half, 60%, 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?*Base: All absolutely certain to vote (602)*

	Q1a/b %
Conservative	35
Labour	42
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	10
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	4
Green Party	6
UK Independence Party	2
British National Party	1
Other	1
Conservative lead (±%)	-7
<i>Would not vote</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Undecided</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Refused</i>	<i>2</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: 1,008 British adults 18+

	%
Conservative	33
Labour	41
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	11
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	5
Green Party	5
UK Independence Party	2
British National Party	1
Other	1
Conservative lead (+%)	-8
<i>Would not vote</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Undecided</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Refused</i>	<i>2</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: 1,008 British adults 18+

	%
10 – absolutely certain to vote	60
9	5
8	8
7	4
6	2
5	7
4	2
3	3
2	1
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	8
Don't know	*
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: 1,008 British adults 18+

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know	Net satisfaction
	%	%	%	±
Government (Q3)	34	56	11	-22
Cameron (Q4)	44	47	8	-3
Miliband (Q5)	35	43	22	-8
Clegg (Q6)	29	61	10	-32

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)	350	64	25	11	+39
Cameron (Q4)	254	87	9	4	+78
Miliband (Q5)	358	53	29	18	+24
Clegg (Q6)	96	53	39	8	+14

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: 1,008 British adults 18+

	%
Improve	29
Stay the same	27
Get worse	42
Don't know	2
Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)	-13

Opposition

Q8a Do you agree or disagree that Labour is ready to form the next Government?

<i>Base (split sample): 505 British adults 18+</i>		%
Strongly agree		12
Tend to agree		19
Neither/nor		7
Tend to disagree		24
Strongly disagree		33
Don't know		5
Agree		31
Disagree		57
Net agree		-26

Q8b Do you agree or disagree that Ed Miliband is ready to be Prime Minister?

<i>Base (split sample): 503 British adults 18+</i>		%
Strongly agree		3
Tend to agree		14
Neither/nor		7
Tend to disagree		32
Strongly disagree		37
Don't know		7
Agree		17
Disagree		69
Net agree		-52

Coalition

Q9. Which, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on how parties should work together in coalition governments?

<i>Base: 1,008 British adults 18+</i>	%
The parties should stand up for the policies they believe in, even if this makes it more difficult to make decisions	49
The parties should work together to reach agreement, even if this means giving up on policies they promised and taking on new policies	47
Neither	2
Don't know	2

Q10. For each of the following areas, do you think that Liberal Democrat and Conservative MPs mostly share similar views or mostly disagree with each other?

<i>Base: 1,008 British adults 18+</i>	Mostly share similar views	Mostly disagree	Don't Know
	%	%	%
The NHS	32	58	10
Immigration	33	49	17
Managing the economy	50	39	11
University tuition fees	17	71	12
Nuclear energy	31	34	35
Defence and foreign affairs	45	38	17

Q11a If the British economy improves in the next 12 months, who do you think will be mostly RESPONSIBLE?

Base (split sample): 505 British adults 18+

	%
The Conservative Party	15
The Liberal Democrat Party	2
The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats together	18
The previous Labour government	4
The banks	7
The state of the global economy	43
Other	2
Don't know	9

Q11b If the British economy gets worse in the next 12 months, who do you think will be mostly TO BLAME?

Base (split sample): 503 British adults 18+

	%
The Conservative Party	10
The Liberal Democrat Party	1
The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats together	17
The previous Labour government	22
The banks	21
The state of the global economy	22
Other	3
Don't know	3

Scotland

Q12 Thinking about Scotland's constitutional future, which of the following statements, if any, comes closest to your own view?

Base: 1,008 British adults 18+

	Scottish adults Nov 2010*	British adults May 2011
	%	%
Scotland should remain part of the UK with the same devolved powers it has at present	32	42
Scotland should remain part of the UK with increased powers	44	29
Scotland should become a fully independent country, separate from the rest of the UK	22	24
Some other view	1	1
Don't know	-	4

*Base: Nov 2010: 1,001 adults aged 18+ in Scotland

Q13 Do you think Scotland will become an independent nation...

Base: 1,000 British adults 18+

	%
...within 5 years' time?	9
...within 10 years' time?	25
...within 20 years' time?	15
...in more than 20 years time?	10
Never	36
Don't know	7

Q14 As you may know, there is a possibility that in the next few years there will be a referendum in Scotland, giving people the chance to vote on whether or not Scotland should become an independent nation.

Regardless of your personal opinion, if there was a referendum in Scotland tomorrow, which, if any, of the following do you think will be the most likely result?

Base: 1,008 British adults 18+

	%
Most people in Scotland will vote in <u>favour</u> of Scotland becoming independent	52
Most people in Scotland will vote <u>against</u> Scotland becoming independent	44
No opinion	1
Don't know	3