

Ipsos MORI June Political Monitor

Fieldwork: 19-21 June 2009

CON 38%(-2) LAB 21%(+3) LIB DEM 19%(+1)

Ipsos MORI's June Political Monitor (carried out by telephone between 19-21 June among 1,004 British adults aged 18 and over) shows that among those absolutely certain to vote, the **Conservative Party lead the Labour Party by 17 points**. The Conservatives are on 38% (down from 40% in our last Political Monitor), Labour is on 21% (up three points from last month) and the Lib Dems on 19% (from 18%). This leaves 22% giving a vote for other parties.

This 'other' category breaks down as follows:

- Scottish/Welsh Nationalist: 3%
- Greens: 5%
- UKIP: 8%
- BNP: 5%
- Other: 2%

Ipsos MORI also tracks the public's optimism about the future of the economy on a monthly basis. For the first time since the turn of the millennium, those who think the **economy will get better over the next 12 months now outnumber those who think it will get worse**.

The proportion of those who feel the economic condition of the country will improve in the next twelve months is 41%, while three in ten (30%) feel it will get worse. The Economic Optimism Index (those who think it will get better minus those who think it will get worse) is therefore +11, which represents the **highest economic optimism in 12 years**.

Turning back to the country's leaders, just 16% (compared to 18% last month) are **satisfied with the way the Government is running the country**, and almost four fifths (78%, vs. 77% last month) are dissatisfied. Taking the net rating (the percentage satisfied minus the percentage dissatisfied) puts the Government on -62, which is the **lowest ever satisfaction rating for this Labour Government**.

For the second month in a row, more Labour supporters are dissatisfied (51%) than are satisfied (39%) with the Government, giving a net rating of -12, which is the **lowest satisfaction score among its own supporters** that has been recorded for this Labour Government.

A quarter (27%) are satisfied with the way **Gordon Brown** is doing his job as Prime Minister and three quarters (66%) are dissatisfied. This is a slight improvement compared with last month's ratings, in which 26% were satisfied and 69% dissatisfied.

David Cameron's ratings have declined since last month. Fewer than half (45%, compared to 51% last month) are satisfied with the way he is doing his job as leader of the Conservative Party, and more than a third (37%) are dissatisfied, up from 35% last month.

Nick Clegg's satisfaction ratings have fallen more dramatically. Two in five (39%) are satisfied with the way he is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats, and 29% are dissatisfied - last month 45% were satisfied and 23% dissatisfied with his performance.

However, **among his own supporters, Nick Clegg is more popular than he has ever been** – just 10% are dissatisfied, and 80% are satisfied, giving a net score of +70. He is now more popular among Lib Dem voters than David Cameron is among Conservative voters.

Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,004 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone 19th-21st June 2009. 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.

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.

A. 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.

Half the public, 51%, 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 (510)	Q1a/b %
Conservative	38
Labour	21
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	19
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	3
Green Party	5
UK Independence Party	8
British National Party	5
Other	1

Conservative lead (+%) +17

Would not vote	1
Undecided	4
Refused	4

B. 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: 1,004 British adults 18+ %

Conservative	36
Labour	25
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	18
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	4
Green Party	5
UK Independence Party	6
British National Party	4
Other	2

Conservative lead (±%) +11

Would not vote	14
Undecided	8
Refused	3

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: 1,004 British adults 18+ %

10 – absolutely certain to vote	51
9	6
8	8
7	5
6	3
5	8
4	3
3	2
2	2
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	11
Don't know	1
Refused	*

Satisfaction Ratings

A. Satisfaction among general public age 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 Gordon Brown is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way David Cameron is doing his job as leader of the Conservative Party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Nick Clegg is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

Base: 1,004 British adults 18+

	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %	Index %
Government (Q3)	16	78	6	-62
Brown (Q4)	27	66	8	-39
Cameron (Q5)	45	37	17	+8
Clegg (Q6)	39	29	31	+10

B. Satisfaction among party supporters

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 Gordon Brown is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way David Cameron is doing his job as leader of the Conservative Party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Nick Clegg is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

Base: All party supporters

	Base	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %	Index %
Government (Q3)	192	39	51	10	-12
Brown (Q4)	192	62	28	10	+34
Cameron (Q5)	277	81	12	8	+69
Clegg (Q6)	134	80	10	10	+70

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: 1,004 British adults 18+

Improve	41
Stay the same	27
Get worse	30
Don't know	2
Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)	+11