



AP Poll Finds That Nearly Half of Spaniards Believe Immigrants Have A Bad Influence Two Months After Terrorist Attacks

New York, NY (AP) — Nearly half of Spaniards believe immigrants have had a bad influence on their country, according to a poll taken two months after a terrorist attack blamed on Islamic militants who were mostly from abroad.

The Associated Press Poll is conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Between May 7-17, 2004, the AP/Ipsos poll interviewed a representative sample of about 1,000 residents of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the United States. The margin of error is +/- 3 for all adults. Please reference the topline results for the complete list of number of interviews and margin of error for each country.

Public Release Date: Posted on Thursday June 1, 2004

Contact: Thomas Riehle
202-463-7300
thomas.riehle@ipsos-na.com

Associated Press

New York, NY (AP) — Nearly half of Spaniards believe immigrants have had a bad influence on their country, according to a poll taken two months after a terrorist attack blamed on Islamic militants who were mostly from abroad.

Of 1,001 people polled, 30 percent thought that immigrants were a somewhat bad influence on their country, and 17 percent said they thought newcomers were a very bad influence, according to The Associated Press poll conducted by Ipsos-Eco Consulting. Forty-three percent said they were a good influence and 17 percent weren't sure.

The poll comes after the March 11 commuter train bombings that killed 191 people and injured 2,000. Of the 20 bombing suspects, only one is from Spain; the majority are Moroccan. There haven't been any reports of anti-immigrant attacks since the bombings.

Still, Spain's response was less negative than in other Western European nations, such as Britain, where 60 percent saw immigrants as a somewhat or very bad influence.

The lower levels of distrust of immigrants could be because the level of immigration is lower in Spain than some other European countries, said Antonio Vera of Ipsos-Eco Consulting in Spain.

The Spaniards polled don't believe immigrants threatened job security — 77 percent believe they are filling jobs that citizens don't want. Fourteen percent said they were taking away jobs and 9 percent weren't sure.

Spain's 2.5 million foreigners make up about 6 percent of the population, and the country that once produced mostly emigrants now has among the fastest immigration growth in the European Union.

Most immigrants come from North Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe and work mainly agricultural and construction jobs, fields that are in constant need of unskilled and cheap labor.

The influx of Muslim immigrants from North Africa is also changing a country that has been fairly ethnically and religiously homogeneous since the expulsion of Muslims and Jews in the 15th century. Spain now has about half a million Muslim immigrants.

Most people in Spain support religious freedom, according to the AP/Ipsos poll. Seventy percent said it's better for a country to have a variety of people with different religions, compared to 21 percent who disagree and 9 percent who weren't sure.

Also, Spain's people appear to favor tradition; on whether people should share the same customs and traditions, 53 percent say yes and 41 percent say no; 6 percent aren't sure, the poll said.

The poll was taken May 7-15 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

For more information, please contact:

Thomas Riehle
President, Ipsos Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
202.463.7300
thomas.riehle@ipsos-na.com

Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Public Affairs, headquartered in Washington D.C., is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research company made up of campaign and political polling veterans as well as seasoned research professionals. The company conducts strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research but often elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research. It has offices in New York City, Chicago, San Ramon (CA), and Washington, with affiliates around the world. Ipsos Public Affairs conducts national and international public opinion polling on behalf of The Associated Press, the world's oldest and largest news organization, and conducts the young voters poll for Newsweek.com. Ipsos Public Affairs is an Ipsos company, a leading global survey-based market research group.

To learn more, visit www.ipsos-pa.com.

Ipsos

Ipsos is a leading global survey-based market research company, owned and managed by research professionals. Ipsos helps interpret, simulate, and anticipate the needs and reactions of consumers, customers, and citizens around the world.

Member companies assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media. They measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos member companies offer expertise in advertising, customer loyalty, marketing, media, and public affairs research, as well as forecasting and modeling and consulting. Ipsos has a full line of custom, syndicated, omnibus, panel, and online research products and services, guided by industry experts and bolstered by advanced analytics and methodologies. The company was founded in 1975 and has been publicly traded since 1999. In 2003, Ipsos generated global revenues of \$644.2 million U.S.

Visit www.ipsos.com to learn more about Ipsos offerings and capabilities.