

YouGov Survey Results Political Tracker (September)

Prepared for The Daily Telegraph

Sample Size: 2306

Fieldwork: 23rd - 25th September 2003

	%
Voting Intention	
Con	32
Lab	31
Lib Dem	30
Other	7
SNP / PCY	2
Geen	1
UKIP	2
BNP	2
Would Not Vote	5
Don't know	13
 Do you approve or disapprove of the Government's record to date?	
Approve	25
Disapprove	65
Don't know	10
 Who would make the best Prime Minister?	
Tony Blair	28
Iain Duncan Smith	18
Charles Kennedy	21
Don't know	33
 Do you think the Government has, on balance, been honest and trustworthy or not?	
Yes – honest and trustworthy	21
No – not honest and trustworthy	71
Don't know	8
 How do you think the financial situation of your household will change over the next 12 months?	
Get a lot better	2
Get a little better	17
Stay the same	31
Get a little worse	31
Get a lot worse	17
Don't know	2
 If Britain were in economic difficulties, which party do you think could handle the problem best – the Conservatives or Labour?	
Conservatives	34
Labour	30
Neither	26
Don't know	10

How would you describe your feelings about Tony Blair and the present Labour Government?

Very enthusiastic	2
Reasonably well satisfied	22
Somewhat dissatisfied	35
Very unhappy	39
Don't know	2

People often see political parties as being close, or not close, to various sections of society. How close do you see Labour being to each of these kinds of people?

Working-class people...

Very close	4
Fairly close	31
Not very close	41
Not at all close	22
Don't know	3

Women...

Very close	4
Fairly close	38
Not very close	37
Not at all close	16
Don't know	6

The rich...

Very close	18
Fairly close	41
Not very close	24
Not at all close	12
Don't know	5

City-dwellers...

Very close	15
Fairly close	48
Not very close	22
Not at all close	8
Don't know	7

Professional and business people...

Very close	18
Fairly close	43
Not very close	25
Not at all close	9
Don't know	6

Gay people...

Very close	15
Fairly close	36
Not very close	24
Not at all close	8
Don't know	18

The poor...

Very close	5
Fairly close	23
Not very close	34
Not at all close	35
Don't know	4

Members of ethnic minorities...

Very close	19
Fairly close	39
Not very close	24
Not at all close	8
Don't know	9

Trade union members...

Very close	10
Fairly close	33
Not very close	37
Not at all close	12
Don't know	9

People who live in the country...

Very close	1
Fairly close	16
Not very close	40
Not at all close	35
Don't know	8

Here are some reasons people give for not wanting to vote Labour at the moment. Please indicate for each of them whether you sympathise with it or not...

The Government was wrong to involve Britain in the war on Iraq...

Do sympathise with this view	54
Do not sympathise	40
Don't know	6

The British economy – things like inflation and unemployment – have been badly managed under Labour...

Do sympathise with this view	42
Do not sympathise	49
Don't know	9

Labour is failing to deliver on the major public services, like the NHS and education...

Do sympathise with this view	71
Do not sympathise	24
Don't know	5

Labour under Tony Blair is too right-wing and conservative...

Do sympathise with this view	38
Do not sympathise	43
Don't know	19

Tony Blair is a poor Prime Minister...

Do sympathise with this view	45
Do not sympathise	44
Don't know	11

There is a culture of deceit and spin at the heart of this Government...

Do sympathise with this view	71
Do not sympathise	20
Don't know	10

The Government has put up taxes too much...

Do sympathise with this view	58
Do not sympathise	33
Don't know	10

Labour under Tony Blair has lost touch with ordinary working people...		
	Do sympathise with this view	70
	Do not sympathise	22
	Don't know	8
Thinking of Britain's universities... Some people say that, unless substantial extra money goes into higher education, the rapid growth of student numbers at Britain's universities will damage the quality of university teaching and research. From what you know, do you think there is a danger of that happening or not?		
	Yes, is a danger	62
	No, is not	18
	Don't know	20
How should the Government respond to that danger? Should it...?		
	Greatly reduce its target for the number of students going into higher education	19
	Make sure universities in some way receive substantial extra money	30
	A mixture of the two	50
	Don't know	2
Should any extra money be...?		
	Provided out of general taxation – that is, paid for by everybody	42
	Paid for out of higher fees, to be levied on university students at the beginning of each academic year	8
	Paid for in instalments by former students once they have graduated from university and are in full-time employment	35
	Don't know	14
Should the Government require all universities to charge the same fees for virtually all their courses, or should universities be free to charge higher fees for more popular courses and lower fees for less popular ones?		
	Same fees at all universities for all courses	50
	Universities should be left free	42
	Don't know	8
Thinking now about the health service... The Government intends to free some NHS hospitals from central regulation and to permit them to run their own affairs and negotiate their own terms and conditions with doctors and other members of staff. From what you know, which of the following statements comes closer to your own view?		
	Good NHS hospitals should be encouraged to improve standards by being left free to run their own affairs and to compete with other hospitals for patients and additional resources	36
	All NHS hospitals should form part of a nationally planned system and should NOT be allowed to compete with other hospitals for patients and resources.	57
	Don't know	7
At present, local councils receive money from three main sources: grants from central government, revenue from business rates, and the council tax, which is paid by local residents according to the value of their home. In recent years, council tax levels in most of Britain have been rising much faster than prices generally. Which of these statements comes closest to your view?		
	'The Government should enforce a limit on future council tax increases, even if this means that some local services are reduced.'	25
	'Any council that wants to increase council tax by significantly more than the general rate of inflation should be required by law to demonstrate majority support in a local referendum.'	53
	'Councils have been elected by local voters. They should be free to decide their council tax levels, and the Government should not interfere.'	14
	Don't know	8

Looking further ahead, which of these options do you favour for the long-term financing of local government...

Keep the present council tax system	14
Replace the council tax with a local income tax, so that local people pay according to their income rather than according to the value of their home	54
Scrap local taxation altogether, finance the whole of local government by grants from central government, and increase general taxation to pay for local services	23
Don't know	9

**How satisfied are you with each of the following. . .?
The strength of Britain's economy at the moment...**

Very satisfied	5
Fairly satisfied	57
Fairly dissatisfied	25
Very dissatisfied	6
Don't know	7

The likely strength of Britain's economy in 12 months' time...

Very satisfied	3
Fairly satisfied	44
Fairly dissatisfied	27
Very dissatisfied	9
Don't know	17

Your family's standard of living at the moment...

Very satisfied	7
Fairly satisfied	51
Fairly dissatisfied	30
Very dissatisfied	11
Don't know	1

Your family's likely standard of living in 12 months' time...

Very satisfied	6
Fairly satisfied	41
Fairly dissatisfied	29
Very dissatisfied	14
Don't know	10

Over the next 12 months, do you expect unemployment in Britain to go up, go down or stay about the same?

Go up	35
Go down	8
Stay about the same	51
Don't know	6

Over the next 12 months, do you expect the inflation rate in Britain to go up, go down or stay about the same?

Go up	52
Go down	4
Stay about the same	36
Don't know	9

In the coming 12 months how likely is it that your family will purchase a car (new or used)?

Very likely	9
Fairly likely	16
Fairly unlikely	25
Very unlikely	51

Compared with the past 12 months, how much do you expect your household to spend in total in the next 12 months on major purchases for the home – items such as carpets, curtains, furniture, double-glazing, cooker, fridge, washing machine, television, computer, videos/DVD recorder?

A lot more than the past 12 months	8
A little more	16
About the same amount	30
A little less	17
A lot less than the past 12 months	25
Don't know	4

Do you. . .?

Work full-time away from home	38
Work full-time at home	8
Work part-time (8 or more hours a week) away from home	11
Work part-time (8 or more hours a week) at home	3
Work part-time (less than 8 hours a week) away from home	2
Work part-time (less than 8 hours a week) at home	2
Not work	36

Thinking about your place of work, and how things will develop over the next 12 months, do you expect the number of people employed there to go up, down or stay about the same?

Go up	22
Go down	25
Stay about the same	51
Don't know	2

Over the next 12 months, do you think the pay for people like you will go up by more than inflation, less than inflation or about the same as inflation?

Go up by more than inflation	7
Go up by about the same as inflation	44
Go up by less than inflation (or go down)	40
Don't know	9

How much do you enjoy your job?

I enjoy it a lot	31
I enjoy it a fair amount	47
I do not enjoy it very much	15
I do not enjoy it at all	6
Don't know	1

If you could wind the clock back to when you had your first job after completing full-time education, would you choose the same occupation or occupations that you have had, or would you choose something different?

I would choose the same occupation(s)	34
I would choose different occupation(s)	57
Don't know	9