

YouGov Survey Results

The Economy and the Fire Strike

Prepared for the Mail on Sunday

Sample Size: 1870

Fieldwork: 28-29 November 2002

If there were a general election tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

Labour	40%
Conservatives	31%
Liberal Democrats	21%
Other	7%

Do you think that Gordon Brown is doing a good job or a bad job as Chancellor of the Exchequer?

Very good	13%
Fairly good	36%
Neither good nor bad	22%
Fairly bad	19%
Very bad	7%
Don't know	2%

How much do you trust Labour to take the right decisions about the economy?

Trust a lot	10%
Trust a fair amount	39%
Do not trust very much	29%
Do not trust at all	21%
Don't know	1%

How much do you trust the Conservatives to take the right decisions about the economy?

Trust a lot	3%
Trust a fair amount	25%
Do not trust very much	37%
Do not trust at all	32%
Don't know	3%

How much do you trust Labour to take the right decisions about Britain's public services?

Trust a lot	8%
Trust a fair amount	31%
Do not trust very much	34%
Do not trust at all	26%
Don't know	1%

How much do you trust the Conservatives to take the right decisions about Britain's public services?

Trust a lot	3%
Trust a fair amount	22%
Do not trust very much	34%
Do not trust at all	39%
Don't know	3%

How likely is it that the following things will happen over the next few years? a) Britain's economy will remain strong

Very likely	3%
Fairly likely	50%
Fairly unlikely	34%
Very unlikely	8%
Don't know	5%

b) The NHS will improve significantly in your area

Very likely	4%
Fairly likely	23%
Fairly unlikely	44%
Very unlikely	25%
Don't know	4%

c) Standards of education in state schools in your area will improve significantly

Very likely	3%
Fairly likely	23%
Fairly unlikely	44%
Very unlikely	24%
Don't know	6%

d) Share prices will rise significantly from their present levels

Very likely	4%
Fairly likely	32%
Fairly unlikely	38%
Very unlikely	11%
Don't know	15%

e) The Government will impose fresh tax increases

Very likely	41%
Fairly likely	50%
Fairly unlikely	6%
Very unlikely	0%
Don't know	3%

f) Levels of street crime will fall significantly in your area

Very likely	1%
Fairly likely	12%
Fairly unlikely	50%
Very unlikely	32%
Don't know	5%

g) Public transport in your area will provide a significantly improved service

Very likely	2%
Fairly likely	10%
Fairly unlikely	42%
Very unlikely	43%
Don't know	3%

h) House prices in your area will rise significantly above today's levels

Very likely	10%
Fairly likely	41%
Fairly unlikely	36%
Very unlikely	8%
Don't know	6%

Do you think you personally will be better off or worse off in a year's time?

Better off	17%
Worse off	46%
No different	34%
Don't know	3%

This week Gordon Brown announced that the Government will have to borrow an extra £20 billion over the next two years. Which do you blame most?

The way the Chancellor has run the economy	35%
The downturn in the world economy	58%
Don't know	7%

Given the extra borrowing, do you think he is right or wrong to continue saying he is a 'prudent Chancellor'?

Right	39%
Wrong	47%
Don't know	14%

The Government this week estimated that council tax will rise by 16 per cent over the next two years. Do you think this figure is justified or not justified?

Justified	16%
Not justified	77%
Don't know	7%

Some people suggest that there should be a 'dustbin tax', so that the more refuse households leave out that is not sorted and cannot be recycled, the more tax they would pay. Would you support or oppose this idea?

Support	51%
Oppose	44%
Don't know	5%

Following this week's statement by Gordon Brown, would you say he is now more likely or less likely to become Labour's next leader?

More likely	8%
Less likely	33%
His chances haven't changed	53%
Don't know	6%

a) If Tony Blair did step down, which senior Labour politician would you like to see replace him?

David Blunkett	11%
Gordon Brown	29%
Charles Clarke	2%
Robin Cook	2%
Clare Short	6%
Alan Milburn	2%
Jack Straw	5%
None of these	31%
Don't know	13%

b) If Tony Blair did step down, which senior Labour politician would be your **SECOND** favourite choice to replace him?

David Blunkett	10%
Gordon Brown	10%
Charles Clarke	3%
Robin Cook	3%
Clare Short	7%
Alan Milburn	4%
Jack Straw	9%
None of these	37%
Don't know	18%

Thinking now about the fire dispute, would you describe yourself as being broadly on the fire-fighters' side or not on their side?

On firefighters' side	40%
Not on their side	57%
Don't know	4%

How well do you think the government has handled the dispute with the firefighters?

Very well	5%
Quite well	25%
Quite badly	37%
Very badly	32%
Don't know	2%

Which of the following comes closest to your view of the firefighters - are they...?

Stubbornly pursuing their own interests	52%
Reasonably pursuing a justified pay claim	32%
Neither of these	16%

Do you think that the firefighters are more or less flexible than public sector workers in general?

More flexible	10%
Less flexible	55%
About the same	29%
Don't know	5%

Britain currently has around 50,000 fire-fighters. John Prescott says that, with more efficient working practices, up to 10,000 jobs could be lost over the next two years (through retirement) with no loss of effectiveness. Do you agree or disagree with this view?

Agree	45%
Disagree	35%
Neither agree nor disagree	20%

How do you rate the performance of each of the following during the fire dispute? a) Tony Blair, the Prime Minister

He has done very well	9%
He has done fairly well	34%
He has done fairly badly	35%
He has done very badly	19%
Don't know	4%

b) John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister

He has done very well	4%
He has done fairly well	22%
He has done fairly badly	31%
He has done very badly	38%
Don't know	5%

c) Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer

He has done very well	9%
He has done fairly well	33%
He has done fairly badly	28%
He has done very badly	15%
Don't know	15%

d) Iain Duncan Smith, the leader of the Conservative Party

He has done very well	3%
He has done fairly well	22%
He has done fairly badly	31%
He has done very badly	19%
Don't know	26%

e) Andy Gilchrist, the leader of the Fire Brigades Union

He has done very well	9%
He has done fairly well	31%
He has done fairly badly	26%
He has done very badly	29%
Don't know	5%

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: 'In the way he is dealing with the fire dispute, Tony Blair is acting like Margaret Thatcher'?

Agree	41%
Disagree	48%
Don't know	11%

Regardless of whether you think Tony Blair is or is not acting like Margaret Thatcher, do you think he SHOULD act like Margaret Thatcher in the present dispute?

Should act like Thatcher	36%
Should NOT act like Thatcher	55%
Don't know	9%

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: 'In the way he is dealing with the fire dispute, Andy Gilchrist is acting like Arthur Scargill'?

Agree	45%
Disagree	41%
Don't know	15%

Regardless of whether you think Andy Gilchrist is or is not acting like Arthur Scargill, do you think he SHOULD act like Arthur Scargill in the present dispute?

Should act like Scargill	5%
Should NOT act like Scargill	82%
Don't know	13%