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Increased Public Support for the U.S. Arming Ukraine

More Still Oppose Than Favor the U.S. Sending Arms to Kiev

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Increased Public Support for Arming Ukraine

More Still Oppose Than Favor the U.S. Sending Arms to Kiev

As fighting continues in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed rebels, the public has become more supportive of sending arms to the Ukrainian government and increasing sanctions on Russia.

More still oppose (53%) than favor (41%) the U.S. sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government, but support for arming Ukraine is up 11 points since April 2014, when opposition outweighed support by about two-to-one (30% favored, 62% opposed).

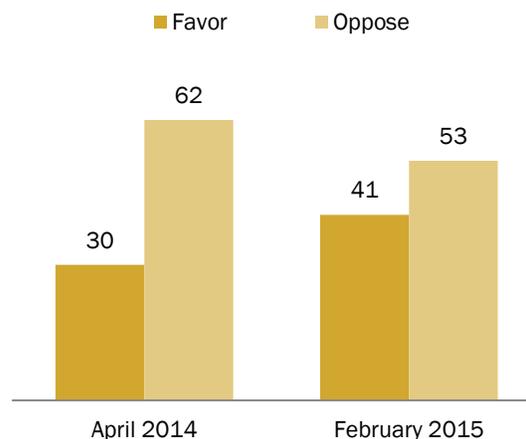
At the same time, there is increased support for additional economic and diplomatic sanctions against Russia. Six-in-ten (60%) favor the U.S. increasing sanctions on Russia, while 34% are opposed. Support for tougher sanctions against Russia has risen seven points from last April.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Feb. 18-22 among 1,504 adults, finds the public is split over whether the U.S. should provide training to Ukrainian troops: 49% say they would favor this, while 46% are opposed.

Opinions about Russian President Vladimir Putin are very negative: 70% hold an unfavorable view of Putin – including 41% with a *very* unfavorable view – compared with just 12% who view him favorably; 18% offer no

More Support Providing Arms to the Ukrainian Government

% favor/oppose U.S. sending arms, military supplies

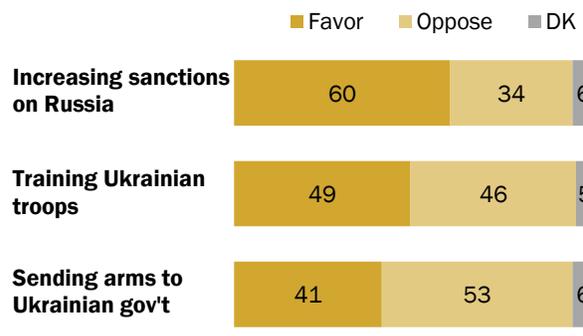


Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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Broad Support for Tougher Sanctions Against Russia

Opinions about the U.S. ... (%)



Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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opinion of the Russian leader.

The situation involving Russia and Ukraine continues to register with the public: 39% say they have heard a lot about tensions between Russia and Ukraine while another 41% have heard a little; just 19% have heard nothing at all about the situation.

And most Americans (77%) say what happens between Russia and Ukraine is either very important (30%) or somewhat important (46%) to the interests of the U.S. The share saying the conflict is very important to U.S. interests is lower than it was in July 2014 (48%), shortly after a Malaysia Airlines plane was shot down over rebel-held territory in Ukraine but is about the same as in April of last year (31%).

Partisan Differences over Arming, Training Ukrainian Forces

Republicans are more likely than Democrats and independents to back the U.S. training Ukrainian troops and sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government.

Overall, 51% of Republicans support the U.S. sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government, while 45% are opposed. By contrast, Democrats (55% oppose, 40% favor) and independents (56% oppose, 38% favor) on balance oppose the U.S. taking these actions. Despite current differences in views, both Republicans and Democrats have become 14 points more likely to support the U.S. arming the Ukrainian government since last April.

Republicans (59%) also are more likely than Democrats (48%) or independents (46%) to support the U.S. providing training to Ukrainian military troops.

There is no partisan divide when it comes to increasing economic and diplomatic sanctions on Russia. About equal percentages of Republicans (64%), Democrats (62%) and independents (60%) support this action.

Republicans More Supportive than Democrats of Aiding Ukrainian Forces

% who favor the U.S. ...

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	Rep- Dem diff
Training Ukrainian troops	49	59	48	46	+11
Sending arms to Ukrainian gov't	41	51	40	38	+11
Increasing sanctions on Russia	60	64	62	60	+2

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

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Demographic Divides in Views of Russia-Ukraine Situation

Across all three policy options included in the survey, young adults under 30 are among the least supportive of U.S. action. Just 33% of young adults favor sending arms to the Ukrainian government, compared with 52% of those 65 and older. And when it comes to both increased sanctions on Russia and training Ukrainian troops, about as many young adults oppose as favor U.S. action; among older adults, more favor than oppose the U.S. taking these steps.

Men (46%) are more likely than women (35%) to support the U.S. sending arms to Ukraine. Men also are more supportive of additional U.S. sanctions against Russia (65% vs. 55%).

Among the 30% of the public that views the events between Russia and Ukraine as very important to the interests of the U.S., large majorities back increased sanctions against Russia (78%), the U.S. training Ukrainian military troops (69%) and the U.S. sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government (63%).

Young Adults Among Least Supportive of the U.S. Taking Action to Aid Ukraine, Punish Russia

% who favor/oppose the U.S...

	<i>Increasing sanctions on Russia</i>		<i>Training Ukrainian military troops</i>		<i>Sending arms/military supplies to Ukraine</i>	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	60	34	49	46	41	53
Men	65	30	53	44	46	50
Women	55	37	45	47	35	57
18-29	47	48	44	52	33	63
30-49	60	32	47	45	37	55
50-64	66	30	51	45	45	50
65+	68	26	56	39	52	43
College grad+	74	23	53	43	44	50
Some college	60	35	52	43	44	51
HS or less	51	40	44	50	36	57
<i>Situation's importance to U.S.</i>						
Very important	78	18	69	27	63	34
Less important	54	42	41	55	32	63

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015. Don't know responses not shown.

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Most View Putin Unfavorably

Views of Russian President Vladimir Putin are highly negative. Overall, 70% hold an unfavorable view of Putin compared with 12% who view him favorably. About four-in-ten (41%) say they hold a *very* unfavorable view of the Russian leader.

Putin is viewed unfavorably across all demographic groups. Comparable percentages of Republicans (76%), Democrats (69%) and independents (67%) hold an unfavorable view of the Russian president. Among conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats, nearly identical percentages hold a *very* unfavorable view of Putin (51% and 53%, respectively).

Young adults hold some of the least negative views of Putin. Among those ages 18-29, 57% view him unfavorably, while 20% view him favorably; 23% are unable to offer a rating. Among older adults, about 70% or more view Putin unfavorably.

Opinions about Putin also differ by awareness of the situation in Ukraine. Among the nearly four-in-ten (39%) who have heard a lot about tensions between Russia and Ukraine, fully 85% view Putin unfavorably. That compares with 69% among those who have heard a little about the tensions between the two countries (41% of the public); 19% of this group offer no opinion of Putin. Among the 19% who have heard nothing at all about this situation, 41% have no opinion of the Russian leader, 39% view him unfavorably, while 19% have a favorable impression.

Highly Negative Views of Vladimir Putin

	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	Never heard of/ Can't rate (Vol.) %
Total	12	70	18=100
Men	13	74	14=100
Women	11	66	23=100
18-29	20	57	23=100
30-49	11	68	22=100
50-64	11	75	14=100
65+	8	79	13=100
College grad+	9	82	9=100
Some college	11	68	20=100
HS or less	15	61	24=100
Republican	10	76	14=100
Democrat	12	69	18=100
Independent	14	67	19=100
<i>Heard about Russia-Ukraine tensions</i>			
A lot (39%)	9	85	6=100
A little (41%)	12	69	19=100
Nothing at all (19%)	19	39	41=100

Survey conducted Feb. 18-22, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 18-22, 2015 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (526 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 978 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 559 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2013 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Republican	399	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	440	5.4 percentage points
Independent	585	4.6 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Pew Research Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
FEBRUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
FEBRUARY 18-22, 2015
N=1,504**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 5a-5b, 8, 11a-11d, 13, 16-18, 25-29, 51a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, 19-24, 30-50

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.51 Would you say your overall opinion of **[INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT NAME]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of **[NAME]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
b. Vladimir Putin Feb 18-22, 2015	12	2	10	70	41	29	10	8

QUESTIONS 51c, 52-54, 56, 58F1-59F2, 62-63, 66-68, 70-71 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 55, 57, 60-61, 64-65, 69, 72-73

ASK ALL:

Q.74 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about tensions between Russia and Ukraine over territory in eastern Ukraine? Have you heard ... **[READ IN ORDER]**

		(U) Apr 23-27 2014
Feb 18-22 2015		
39	A lot	46
41	A little	34
19	Nothing at all	20
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

ASK ALL:

Q.75 In response to the situation involving Russia and Ukraine, would you favor or oppose the United States **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Would you favor or oppose the United States **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	Favor	Oppose	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Increasing economic and diplomatic sanctions on Russia Feb 18-22, 2015	60	34	6
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	53	36	11
b. Sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government Feb 18-22, 2015	41	53	6
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	30	62	8
c. Training Ukrainian military troops Feb 18-22, 2015	49	46	5

ASK ALL:

Q.76 How important to the interests of the United States is what happens between Russia and Ukraine
[**READ IN ORDER**]?

			(U)
Feb 18-22 2015		Jul 24-27 2014	Apr 23-27 2014
30	Very important	48	31
46	Somewhat important	35	36
13	Not too important	8	16
7	Not at all important	5	13
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4

NO QUESTIONS 77, 79**QUESTIONS 78, 80 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Yearly Totals								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>			
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=679]:

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9	54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9	54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9	55	2	1	--
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10	57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ¹	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

¹ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."