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Limited Support for Iran Nuclear Agreement

Iran's Leaders Seen as 'Not Serious' in Addressing Nuclear Concerns

A Pew Research Center/USA TODAY Survey

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Iran's Leaders Seen as 'Not Serious' in Addressing Nuclear Concerns

The public is reacting skeptically to last month's multilateral agreement aimed at freezing parts of Iran's nuclear program. Overall, more disapprove than approve of the deal, and there continues to be broad skepticism about whether Iranian leaders are serious about addressing international concerns over the country's nuclear program.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center and [USA TODAY](#), conducted Dec. 3-8 among 2,001 adults, finds that 43% disapprove of the agreement between the U.S. and Iran over its nuclear program, 32% approve of the deal, while 25% do not offer an opinion.

The public's doubts about the intentions of Iran's leaders are as high as they were [last month](#) before the nuclear agreement. By roughly two-to-one (62% to 29%), those who have heard at least a little about the agreement say Iran's leaders are not serious about addressing concerns over the country's nuclear program.

There are substantial partisan differences in opinions about the nuclear agreement. Nearly six-in-ten Republicans (58%) disapprove of the accord, while just 14% approve. By contrast, Democrats approve of the agreement by about two-to-one (50% approve, 27% disapprove). Among independents, more disapprove (47%) than approve (29%).

Broad Skepticism about Iran Nuclear Agreement

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
Total	32	43	25=100
Men	35	46	19=100
Women	29	39	32=100
18-29	29	43	28=100
30-49	30	40	30=100
50-64	37	41	22=100
65+	32	48	19=100
Post-graduate degree	48	37	15=100
College graduate	41	38	21=100
Some college	28	41	31=100
High school or less	29	47	24=100
Republican	14	58	27=100
Conservative	13	64	23=100
Democrat	50	27	23=100
Liberal	60	19	22=100
Independent	29	47	24=100
<i>Heard about agreement ...</i>			
A lot (24%)	44	51	5=100
A little (48%)	36	45	20=100
Nothing at all (28%)	15	33	52=100

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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The ideological wings of the parties hold sharply divergent views of the deal. Conservative Republicans disapprove of the agreement by a 64%-13% margin, while liberal Democrats approve of it by 60%-19%. Among Republican and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party movement, nearly three-quarters (72%) disapprove of the agreement while only 13% approve of it.

Across most demographic groups, more disapprove than approve of the Iran nuclear agreement. However, looking at education, 48% of those with post-graduate degrees approve of the deal while 37% disapprove. College graduates are divided (41% approve, 38% disapprove), while those with less education on balance disapprove of the agreement.

The survey finds modest public awareness of the nuclear agreement, which was reached Nov. 23 in Geneva. About a quarter (24%) say they have heard a lot about the agreement, 48% say they have heard a little while 28% say they have heard nothing at all about it. The balance of opinion on the nuclear agreement is not much different among those who have heard a lot about it (44% approve, 51% disapprove) and those who have heard a little (36% approve, 45% disapprove). Among those who have heard nothing at all about the nuclear deal, 52% do not offer an opinion.

Continued Doubts about Iranian Leaders

The nuclear accord has done nothing to reduce skepticism that Iranian leaders are serious about addressing international concerns over the country's nuclear program. Among those who have heard at least a little about the agreement, 62% say that Iranian leaders are not serious about addressing international concerns about their country's nuclear enrichment program compared with just 29% who think they are serious.

Opinion on this question has shown almost no change since early November, when 60% of those who had heard about the ongoing nuclear talks said they did not think Iranian leaders were serious about addressing international concerns over their nuclear program; a third (33%) thought they were.

Iranian Leaders Seen as 'Not Serious' about Addressing Nuclear Concerns

Among those who have heard, Iranian leaders are ...

	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Change
	%	%	
Serious	33	29	-4
Not serious	60	62	+2
Don't know	7	9	
	100	100	

Survey conducted Dec. 3-8, 2013.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Based on those who have heard "a lot" or "a little" about the agreement on Iran's nuclear program.

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Even among Democrats, who approve of the nuclear agreement on balance, there is skepticism about Iranian leaders. Overall, 49% of Democrats who have heard of the agreement say they do not think Iran's leaders are serious about addressing international concerns; 41% say they are. The balance of opinion is much more lopsided among independents (63% not serious, 29% serious) and Republicans (77% not serious, 14% serious) who have heard at least a little about the accord.

Not surprisingly, support for the nuclear deal is much higher among the share of the public that has heard about the agreement and thinks Iranian leaders are serious (65% approve, 22% disapprove). Among those who do not think Iranian leaders are serious about addressing concerns over their nuclear program, 63% disapprove of the nuclear agreement between the U.S. and Iran, 26% approve.

About the Survey

The analysis for this report is based on telephone interviews conducted December 3-8, 2013 among a national sample of 2,001 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (1,000 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 523 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://people-press.org/methodology/>

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 2011 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 and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 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. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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	2,001	2.6 percentage points
Heard at least a little about Iran agreement	1,551	2.9 percentage points
Heard a lot	593	4.7 percentage points
Heard a little	958	3.7 percentage points
Heard nothing at all	433	5.5 percentage points
Republican	539	4.9 percentage points
Democrat	655	4.5 percentage points
Independent	711	4.3 percentage points
All Rep/Rep leaners	896	3.8 percentage points
Tea Party	322	6.4 percentage points
Non-Tea Party	552	4.9 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.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/USA TODAY
DECEMBER 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
December 3-8, 2013
N=2,001**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 6-7, 12-14, 16-22, 30-31, 33-36, 45, 47-48, 50-51, 54-59, 61 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 3-5, 8-11, 15, 23-29, 32, 37-44, 46, 49, 52-53, 60, 62-66

ASK ALL:

Q.67 How much, if anything, have you heard about a recent agreement between the United States and Iran on Iran's nuclear program? Have you heard [**READ IN ORDER**]

		<i>Recent international talks regarding Iran's nuclear enrichment program</i>	
(U)		Oct 30-Nov 6	
Dec 3-8		2013	
		<u>2013</u>	
24	A lot	24	
48	A little	49	
28	Nothing at all	26	
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

*How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the dispute over Iran's nuclear program?
Have you heard...*

Mar 7-11		Feb 8-12	Jan 11-16	Sep 30- Oct 4	Sep	Feb
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u> ¹	<u>2009</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
41	A lot	38	42	41	41	32
38	A little	39	41	41	44	46
21	Nothing at all	23	15	18	14	21
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2	*	1	1

ASK ALL:

Q.68 From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the agreement between the United States and Iran on Iran's nuclear program?

(U)	
Dec 3-8	
<u>2013</u>	
32	Approve
43	Disapprove
25	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the United States negotiating directly with Iran over the issue of its nuclear program?

Sep 30-Oct 4	
<u>2009</u>	
63	Approve
28	Disapprove
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

¹ In Jan 11-16, 2012, the question read: "...recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program and disputes in the Persian Gulf." In February 2006, question read: "The Iranian government recently said it will resume research on nuclear technology, despite opposition from other countries. How much, if anything, have you read or heard about this?"

Q.68 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

From what you know, would you favor or oppose the United States negotiating directly with Iran over the issue of its nuclear program?

Sep	
<u>2006</u>	
54	Favor
32	Oppose
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.67=1,2):

Q.69 Do you think Iranian leaders are serious about addressing international concerns about their country's nuclear enrichment program, or not?

BASED ON THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE [N=1,551]:

(U)		
Dec 3-8		Oct 30-Nov 6
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>
29	Serious	33
62	Not serious	60
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

QUESTIONS 70-71, 80-88, 94-95, 98 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 72-79, 89-93, 96-97****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
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Yearly Totals								
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL.) No preference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
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
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=896]:

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
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	--
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	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--

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 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ²	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
(WP)	Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls
(SDT)	Pew Research Social and Demographic Trends

² 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."