

PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
APRIL 28-MAY 1, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,006

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. News about Barack Obama's birthplace and birth certificate					
April 28-May 1, 2011	18	19	27	35	1
b. The rising price of gas and oil					
April 28-May 1, 2011	51	26	13	10	1
April 14-17, 2011	53	25	11	11	*
March 17-20, 2011	46	28	14	12	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 24-27, 2011: <i>The rising price of oil</i>	50	29	13	8	*
June 27-30, 2008	57	26	11	5	1
March 7-10, 2008	43	33	12	11	1
November 9-12, 2007	44	28	14	13	1
October 17-20, 2008: <i>The falling price of gas and oil</i>	53	33	11	3	*
July 3-7, 2008: <i>The rising price of gasoline</i>	62	25	8	4	1
June 6-9, 2008	66	19	7	7	1
May 22-25, 2008	65	22	9	4	*
May 16-19, 2008	64	21	10	4	1
May 2-5, 2008	63	23	9	4	1
April 25-28, 2008	62	23	10	5	*
May 24-27, 2007	52	29	10	8	1
May 18-21, 2007 ¹	48	27	16	8	1
August, 2006 ²	60	26	7	5	2
June, 2006	58	26	10	5	1
May, 2006	69	21	6	3	1
April, 2006	65	22	8	4	1
December, 2005	61	27	7	4	1
Early November, 2005	61	27	9	2	1
Late October, 2005	67	23	7	3	*
Early October, 2005	65	25	6	3	1
Early September, 2005	71	19	7	3	*
Mid-May, 2005	58	27	9	5	1
Mid-March, 2005	50	32	13	5	*
Mid-October, 2004	64	22	8	5	1
August, 2004	52	29	10	8	1
July, 2004	56	25	11	7	1
June, 2004	58	26	9	6	1
April, 2004	46	30	15	8	1
Early April, 2004	58	23	10	8	1
Mid-March, 2004	47	27	14	10	2
September, 2003	45	27	15	11	1
March, 2003	52	27	11	9	1

¹ For May 18-21, 2007 the item was not asked as part of a list.

² From October, 2000 to August, 2006, the story was listed as "The high price of gasoline these days." From August, 1990 to June, 2000, the story was listed as "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February, 2003	53	25	12	9	1
June, 2001	56	31	7	5	1
May, 2001	61	26	6	6	1
Early October, 2000	56	25	12	6	1
June, 2000	61	25	9	5	*
March, 2000	58	28	10	4	*
October, 1990	62	26	8	4	*
September, 1990	56	28	11	5	*
August, 1990	57	27	10	5	1
c. Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries					
April 28-May 1, 2011	18	29	25	27	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 21-25, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Libya</i>	21	35	20	22	1
April 14-17, 2011	21	30	25	23	1
April 7-10, 2011	28	35	21	16	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Military air strikes in Libya by the U.S. and its allies</i>	37	31	17	14	1
March 24-27, 2011	33	34	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011: <i>The conflict between rebels and government forces in Libya</i>	26	28	21	23	1
March 10-13, 2011: <i>Growing violence in Libya</i>	29	29	21	20	*
March 3-6, 2011	31	31	18	19	1
February 24-27, 2011	38	30	15	16	*
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 17-20, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in other Middle Eastern and North African nations</i>	20	30	22	28	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
January 20-23, 2011: <i>Political instability in Tunisia following the collapse of the government</i>	7	15	25	53	1
January, 2007: <i>The U.S. air strikes on suspected terrorist sites in Somalia</i>	17	32	27	23	1
May, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces</i>	32	38	19	10	1
Late April, 1999	41	39	13	7	*
April, 1999	41	37	16	6	0
March, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo</i>	43	32	15	9	1
August, 1998: <i>U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan</i>	44	35	13	8	*
July 10-24, 1986: <i>The U.S. air strike against Libya</i>	58	27	11	3	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
d. Deadly storms in the South April 28-May 1, 2011	45	29	14	12	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 21-25, 2011: <i>Deadly storms in the South and Midwest</i>	29	33	18	20	*
June 13-16, 2008: <i>A tornado that killed four Boy Scouts at a camp in Iowa</i>	32	35	17	16	*
May 30-June 2, 2008: <i>Midwest</i> ³	30	33	21	15	1
February 8-11, 2008: <i>South and Midwest</i>	25	42	19	13	1
May 11-14, 2007: <i>Tornadoes and floods in the Midwest</i>	22	35	23	19	1
March 2-5, 2007: <i>South and Midwest</i>	33	38	18	11	*
May, 1999: <i>Oklahoma and Kansas</i>	38	40	15	6	1
e. The announcement that Leon Panetta would become Secretary of Defense and David Petraeus would become Director of the CIA April 28-May 1, 2011	9	17	22	50	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 6-9, 2011: <i>Changes to Barack Obama's White House staff</i>	19	34	18	28	1
January 23-26, 2009: <i>Hillary Clinton becoming Secretary of State</i>	24	30	24	22	*
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's appointments and plans for his administration</i>	30	37	21	12	*
January 2-4, 2009	32	35	16	17	*
December 12-15, 2008	30	34	20	16	*
December 5-8, 2008	36	38	15	11	*
November 21-24, 2008: <i>Plans for the new Obama administration</i>	49	24	15	12	*
November 14-17, 2008	32	37	16	15	*
November 7-10, 2008	39	30	17	14	*
August 30-September 2, 2007: <i>Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' resignation</i>	16	28	23	33	*
August 17-20, 2007: <i>Karl Rove's resignation from his position in the White House</i>	14	20	23	42	1
Mid-November, 2006: <i>The resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld</i>	30	30	21	18	1
January, 2001: <i>George W. Bush's cabinet choices and other high-level appointments</i>	26	32	24	17	1
January, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's cabinet choices and other high-level appointments</i>	24	42	22	11	1
December, 1991: <i>The resignation of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu</i>	8	25	31	36	0
f. The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in England April 28-May 1, 2011	16	19	25	39	*
April 21-25, 2011: <i>The upcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in England</i>	8	13	25	53	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
May 9-12, 2008: <i>The wedding of George Bush's daughter Jenna</i>	4	7	25	63	1

³ March 2-5, 2007 through May 30-June 2, 2008 asked about "Violent storms and tornadoes" in each region. May, 1999 asked about "Tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas."

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [**DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.**]

Apr 28-May 1

2011

30	Deadly storms in the South
24	The rising price of gas and oil
9	The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in England
8	Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries
8	News about Barack Obama's birthplace and birth certificate
	The announcement that Leon Panetta would become Secretary of Defense and David Petraeus would become Director of the CIA
1	
8	Some other story (VOL.)
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS PEW.3-PEW.5**ASK ALL:**

PEW.6 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage or the right amount of coverage to each of the following? [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]

	<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton				
April 28-May 1, 2011	64	2	29	5
April 21-25, 2011: The upcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton	64	4	25	7
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>The wedding of Chelsea Clinton</i> ⁴	58	8	25	9

ABC News Poll October, 1981

Now, I'm going to mention some news events from the recent past. After each tell me whether you think television news gave the event too much attention, not enough attention or about the right amount of attention...

	<u>Too much attention</u>	<u>Not enough attention</u>	<u>About the right amount of attention</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/No opinion</u>
The wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in England ⁵	61	2	34	3
	<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
b. Barack Obama releasing a more detailed version of his birth certificate				
April 28-May 1, 2011	54	10	27	9
NO ITEM c				
d. The rising price of gas and oil	13	39	44	5
April 28-May 1, 2011				

⁴ Chelsea Clinton married on July 31, 2010, during the field period.

⁵ The October, 1981 ABC News poll asked a list of five recent events. Other events not shown here.

ASK ALL:

PEW.7 Many news organizations published copies of Barack Obama's more detailed birth certificate in print or posted it online. Did you look at Barack Obama's birth certificate closely, not closely, or did you not look at it at all?

Apr 28-May 1

2011

11	Closely
21	Not closely
68	Did not look at it
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL FRIDAY, APRIL 29, THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 1 [N=799]:

PEW.8 Did you watch the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, or not?

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you plan to watch

Apr 28-May 1

2011

34	Yes
65	No
*	Refused (VOL.)

Apr 21-25

2011

19	Yes
75	No
5	Maybe/Not sure (VOL.)
*	Refused (VOL.)

PEW.1 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE