

# **GLOBAL VIEWS 2008**

**THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

**Economy Questions**

**September, 2008**

***Survey Findings (Question Ordering and Page Numbering)***

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# Introduction

This report is based on the results of a survey commissioned by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. This survey was conducted between September 22 and September 26, 2008. The purpose of this survey was to act as a follow-up to The Chicago Council's 2008 *Global Views* survey conducted in July 2008, to gauge whether any substantial changes in attitudes occurred due to the financial crisis.

The surveys were conducted by Knowledge Networks (KN), a polling, social science, and market research firm in Menlo Park, California. The survey had a total sample size of 1,027 American adults. The margin of sampling error for the September survey is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

The survey was fielded using randomly selected samples of KN's large-scale, nationwide research panel. This panel is itself randomly selected from the national population of households with telephones. These households are subsequently provided Internet access for the completion of surveys (and thus the sample is not limited to those in the population who already have Internet access). The distribution of the sample in the Web-enabled panel closely tracks the distribution of United States Census counts for the U.S. population eighteen years of age or older on age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, geographical region, employment status, income, education, etc. To reduce the effects of any nonresponse and noncoverage bias in panel estimates, a poststratification raking adjustment is applied using demographic distributions from the most recent data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The poststratification variables include age, race, gender, Hispanic ethnicity and education. This weighting adjustment is applied prior to the selection of any client sample from KnowledgePanel<sup>SM</sup>. These weights constitute the starting weights for any client survey selected from the panel.

Once the study data are returned from the field, the final qualified respondent data are subjected to an additional poststratification process to adjust for any nonresponse and noncoverage as a result of the study-specific sample design. The primary purpose of this poststratification adjustment is to reduce the sampling variance for any characteristics highly correlated with the representative study population's demographic and geographic totals (these are referred to as the population benchmarks). This adjustment also helps reduce bias due to survey nonresponse.

The panel is recruited using stratified random digit dialing (RDD) telephone sampling. RDD provides a nonzero probability of selection for every U.S. household with a telephone. Households that agree to participate in the panel are provided with free Web access and an Internet appliance (if necessary), which uses a telephone line to connect to the Internet and uses the television as a monitor. For more information concerning the methodology of the U.S. sample, please visit the KN Web site at [www.knowledgenetworks.com](http://www.knowledgenetworks.com).

# Detailed Findings

Note: Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding\*

## Question 5 (1-5)

**Question 5 (1-5): Below is a list of possible threats to the vital interest of the United States in the next 10 years. For each one, please select whether you see this as a critical threat, an important but not critical threat, or not an important threat at all.**

### 5/1. The possibility of unfriendly countries becoming nuclear powers

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Critical (%)	Important but not critical (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
1990	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994	72	21	3	4	100
1998	75	18	3	4	100
2002 (telephone)	85	12	2	1	100
2004 (telephone)	66	26	5	3	100
2004 (internet)	64	31	3	2	100
2006 (internet)	69	27	3	1	100
2008 (July)	67	30	3	0	100
2008 (Sept)	60	37	3	1	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-7	+7	0	+1	

### 5/2. Economic competition from low-wage countries

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Critical (%)	Important but not critical (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
1990	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	40	44	12	4	100
2002 (telephone)	31	44	24	1	100

\* Knowledge Networks calculated numbers to 2 decimal places before final rounding on all questions.

2004 (telephone)	35	40	21	4	100
2004 (internet)	35	48	14	2	100
2006 (internet)	32	55	11	1	100
2008 (July)	38	49	12	1	100
2008 (Sept)	38	51	11	1	
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	0	+2	-1	0	

### 5/3. Disruption in energy supply

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Critical (%)	Important but not critical (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
2006 (internet)	59	37	3	1	100
2008 (July)	72	25	3	1	100
2008 (Sept)	62	35	3	1	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-10	+10	0	0	

### 5/4. International terrorism

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Critical (%)	Important but not critical (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
1990	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994	69	25	3	3	100
1998	84	13	1	2	100
2002 (telephone)	91	7	2	--	100
2004 (telephone)	81	16	1	2	
2004 (internet)	75	22	1	2	100
2006 (internet)	74	23	2	1	100
2008 (July)	70	26	3	1	100
2008 (Sept)	64	32	4	1	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-6	+6	+1	0	

5/5. Instability in the global economy (new)

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Critical (%)	Important but not critical (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
2008 (Sept)	58	40	3	1	100

**Question 7 (1-5)**

**Question 7 (1-5):** Below is a list of possible foreign policy goals that the United States might have. For each one please select whether you think that it should be a very important foreign policy goal of the United States, a somewhat important foreign policy goal, or not an important goal at all?

7/1. Combating international terrorism

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
1974	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1978	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1982	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1986	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1990	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	79	17	2	2	100
2002 (telephone)	91	7	1	1	100
2002 (internet)	83	15	2	1	100
2004 (internet)	71	25	2	2	100
2006 (internet)	72	25	2	1	100
2008 (July)	67	29	4	1	100
2008 (Sept)	65	29	4	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-2	0	0	+1	

7/2. Protecting the jobs of American workers

(N=1,027)				
Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)

Year					
1974	74	17	5	4	100
1978	78	15	3	4	100
1982	77	17	3	3	100
1986	77	18	3	2	100
1990	84	13	1	2	100
1994	83	14	2	1	100
1998	80	15	2	3	100
2002 (telephone)	85	13	2	--	100
2002 (internet)	81	17	2	0	100
2004 (internet)	78	19	2	2	100
2006 (internet)	76	20	3	2	100
2008 (July)	80	17	3	1	100
2008 (Sept)	78	18	3	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-2	+1	0	+1	

### 7/3. Securing adequate supplies of energy

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
1974	75	18	2	5	100
1978	78	15	2	5	100
1982	70	23	3	4	100
1986	69	25	3	3	100
1990	76	20	1	3	100
1994	62	30	5	3	100
1998	64	30	2	4	100
2002 (telephone)	75	21	2	2	100
2002 (internet)	70	27	3	1	100
2004 (internet)	69	27	2	2	100
2006 (internet)	72	25	2	2	100
2008 (July)	80	18	2	1	100
2008 (Sept)	77	20	1	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-3	+2	-1	+1	

**7/4. Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons**

Year	<b>(N=1,027)</b>				Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
1974	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1978	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1982	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1986	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1990	84	12	2	2	100
1994	82	14	2	2	100
1998	82	14	1	3	100
2002 (telephone)	90	8	1	1	100
2002 (internet)	86	12	2	1	100
2004 (internet)	73	23	2	2	100
2006 (internet)	74	22	2	2	100
2008 (July)	73	25	2	1	100
2008 (Sept)	66	29	3	3	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-7	+4	+1	+2	

**7/5. Improving America's standing in the world**

Year	<b>(N=1,027)</b>				Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not important (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
2008 (July)	83	15	2	1	100
2008 (Sept)	51	38	10	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-32	+23	+8	+1	

**Question 165**

**Question 165: Turning to something else, do you believe that globalization, especially the increasing connections of our economy with others around the world, is mostly good or mostly bad for the United States?**

165. Globalization and the U.S.

**(N=1,027)**

	Mostly good (%)	Mostly bad (%)	Neutral/ equally good and bad (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>					
1998	54	20	15	11	100
2002 (telephone)	56	27	8	9	100
2002 (internet)	61	32	n/a	7	100
2004 (internet)	64	31	n/a	5	100
2006 (internet)	60	35	n/a	5	100
2008 (July)	58	39	n/a	4	100
2008 (Sept.)	56	42	n/a	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-2	+3	n/a	-2	

**Question 225 (1-10)**

**Question 225 (1-10): Please indicate how important the following factors are to the United States remaining competitive with other countries in the global economy?**

**225/1. Supporting open trade around the world**

	(N=1,027)					Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
<u>Year</u>						
2008 (July)	32	49	13	5	3	100
2008 (Sept.)	24	54	15	5	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-8	+5	+2	0	-1	

**225/2. Improving public education**

	(N=1,027)					Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
<u>Year</u>						
2008 (July)	71	22	3	2	2	100
2008 (Sept.)	65	29	3	1	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-6	+7	0	-1	0	

**225/3. Providing universal health care**

<u>Year</u>	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
2008 (July)	47	26	13	10	3	100
2008 (Sept.)	43	31	13	11	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-4	+5	0	+1	-1	

**225/4. Reducing federal budget deficits**

<u>Year</u>	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
2008 (July)	68	26	3	2	2	100
2008 (Sept.)	65	29	2	1	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-3	+3	-1	-1	0	

**225/5. Continuing high levels of legal immigration**

<u>Year</u>	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
2008 (July)	25	33	26	14	2	100
2008 (Sept.)	21	40	27	9	3	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-4	+7	+1	-5	+1	

**225/6. Improving border security**

<u>Year</u>	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					Total (%)
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
2008 (July)	60	28	7	3	2	100
2008 (Sept.)	50	35	11	3	2	0

Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-10	+7	+4	0	0
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**225/7. Increasing public spending on infrastructure such as bridges and airports**

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>						
2008 (July)	41	43	12	3	2	100
2008 (Sept.)	29	53	14	3	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-12	+10	+2	0	0	

**225/8. Encouraging foreign investors to invest in U.S. companies and projects**

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>						
2008 (July)	40	40	11	6	3	100
2008 (Sept.)	32	45	17	5	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-8	+5	+6	-1	-1	

**225/9. Investing in renewable energy**

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>						
2008 (July)	74	19	4	2	2	100
2008 (Sept.)	71	22	4	1	2	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	-3	+3	0	-1	0	

**225/10. Stabilizing U.S. financial Institutions (new)**

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>					
	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>						

Year						
2008 (Sept.)	67	26	4	2	2	100

**Question 250**

**Question 250: Overall, do you think economic globalization is happening too quickly, too slowly or at the right pace?**

250. Pace of globalization

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Too quickly (%)	Too slowly (%)	At the right pace (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	
2008 (July)	40	18	39	3	100
2008 (Sept.)	40	20	37	3	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	0	+2	-2	0	

**Question 260**

**Question 260: Thinking about the next generation of Americans who are children today, the way things are going, do you think economically they will be better off, worse off, or about the same as the generation of adults who are working today?**

260. Future of next generation of Americans

Year	(N=1,027)				Total (%)
	Better off (%)	About the same (%)	Worse off (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	
2008 (July)	9	30	60	1	100
2008 (Sept.)	10	27	62	1	100
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	+1	-3	+2	0	

**Question 263**

**Question 263: Recently some foreign government-owned funds have made major investments in American companies and financial institutions. Some observers say that as their role is purely economic, we should welcome such investment. Others say the risk of losing control of American companies and their technologies to foreign governments is too great. Are you in favor or not in favor of allowing foreign government investors to invest in U.S. companies and banks?**

**263. Opinion on foreign government-owned funds investing in American companies**

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>			Total (%)
	In favor (%)	Not in favor (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	
<u>Year</u>				
2008 (July)	29	68	3	100
2008 (Sept.)	29	68	3	
Change in % points July – Sept., 2008	0	0	0	

**Question 270**

**Question 270: On balance do you think that the current financial crisis and the U.S. Government's response to it will:**

**270. The current financial crisis**

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>				Total (%)
	Improve America's standing in the world (%)	Worsen America's standing in the world (%)	Have no effect on America's standing in the world (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	
<u>Year</u>					
2008 (Sept.)	15	48	35	2	100

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Question 1005

Question 1005: In general, do you think of yourself as:

1005. Party ideology

<b>(N=1,027)</b>									
	Extremel y liberal (%)	Liberal (%)	Slightly liberal (%)	Moderate/ Middle of the road (%)	Slightly conservati ve (%)	Conserva tive (%)	Extremely conservativ e (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>									
2008 (Sept)	2	11	10	36	13	22	5	3	100

## Question 1010

Question 1010: Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or what?

1010. Party ID

<b>(N=1,027)</b>						
	Republican (%)	Democrat (%)	Independent (%)	Other (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>						
2008 (Sept)	32	35	23	9	2	100

## Question 1015

Question 1015: Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

1015. Type of Republican

<b>(N=325)</b>				
	Strong Republican (%)	Not very strong Republican (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>				
2008 (Sept)	51	49	0	100

**Question 1020**

**Question 1020: Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?**

1020. Type of Democrat

	<b>(N=363)</b>			
	Strong Democrat (%)	Not very strong Democrat (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>				
2008 (Sept)	54	46	0	100

**Question 1025**

**Question 1025: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?**

1025. Proximity to Republican or Democratic party

	<b>(N=231)</b>				
	Republican party (%)	Democratic party (%)	Neither (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>					
2008 (Sept)	33	24	43	0	100

**Party 7**

**Party 7: Do you generally think of yourself as:**

Party 7: Party ID

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>								
	Strong Republican (%)	Not Strong Republican (%)	Leans Republican (%)	Undecided /Independent /Other (%)	Leans Democrat (%)	Not strong Democrat (%)	Strong Democrat (%)	Not sure/ Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>									
2008 (Sept)	16	16	7	18	5	16	19	2	100

**Party 3**

**Party 3: Do you generally think of yourself as:**

Party 3: Party ID

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>				
	Republican	Other	Democrat	Not sure/ Decline	Total

	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
<u>Year</u>					
2008 (Sept)	39	18	41	2	100

**Question 1040**

**Question 1040: What is your religious preference?**

1040. Religious preference

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>								
	Protestant (%)	Catholic (%)	Other Christian (%)	Jewish (%)	Muslim (%)	Other (%)	No religion (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>									
2008 (Sept)	26	19	30	3	0	8	13	2	100

**Question 1042**

**Question 1042: Which one of these words best describes your kind of Christianity - fundamentalist, evangelical, charismatic, Pentecostal, or moderate to liberal?**

1042. Kind of Christianity

	<b>(N=767)</b>			
	Fundamental, evangelical, charismatic or Pentecostal (%)	Moderate to liberal (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>				
2008 (Sept)	38	59	4	100

**Question 1050**

**Question 1050: How old are you?**

Note: Answers divided in 7 categories

1050. Age

	<b>(N=1,027)</b>									
	18-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-44 (%)	45-54 (%)	55-64 (%)	65-74 (%)	75+ (%)	Under 18 (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>										
2008 (Sept)	10	19	21	18	17	11	5	0	0	100

**Question 1055**

**Question 1055: What is the highest degree or level of education that you have completed?**

1055. Level of education (categorical)

<b>(N=1,027)</b>						
	Less than high school (%)	High school (%)	Some college (%)	Bachelor's degree or higher (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>						
2008 (Sept)	13	32	28	28	0	100

**Question 1060**

**Question 1060: What is your race?**

1060. Race

<b>(N=1,027)</b>							
	White, Non-Hispanic (%)	Black, Non-Hispanic (%)	Other, Non-Hispanic (%)	Hispanic (%)	2+ races, Non-Hispanic (%)	Not sure/Decline (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>							
2008 (Sept)	69	11	5	13	1	0	100

**Question 1065**

**Question 1065: Gender of respondent? (not asked of respondent)**

1065. Gender

<b>(N=1,027)</b>			
	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>			
2008 (Sept)	52	49	100

**PPWORK**

**PPWORK: Which statement best describes your current employment status? Are you:**

PPWORK. Employment status

**(N=1,027)**

	Working - as a paid employee (%)	Working - self- employed (%)	Not working - on tempora ry layoff from a job (%)	Not working - looking for work (%)	Not working - retired (%)	Not working - disabled (%)	Not working - other (%)	Total (%)
<u>Year</u>								
2008 (Sept)	52	7	1	5	16	11	9	100