

Sample Size: 911 Labour Party members

Fieldwork: 25th - 27th February 2009

For detailed results, [click here](#)

%

How well do you think the following Government ministers are performing?

**Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister**

Very well 29  
Fairly well 48

**TOTAL WELL 77**

Fairly badly 16  
Very badly 5

**TOTAL BADLY 21**

Don't know 2

**Alistair Darling, the Chancellor of the Exchequer**

Very well 19  
Fairly well 54

**TOTAL WELL 73**

Fairly badly 17  
Very badly 7

**TOTAL BADLY 24**

Don't know 4

**David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary**

Very well 21  
Fairly well 53

**TOTAL WELL 74**

Fairly badly 15  
Very badly 5

**TOTAL BADLY 19**

Don't know 7

**Jacqui Smith, the Home Secretary**

Very well 14  
Fairly well 42

**TOTAL WELL 56**

Fairly badly 26  
Very badly 13

**TOTAL BADLY 39**

Don't know 5

**Lord (Peter) Mandelson, the Business Secretary**

Very well 20  
Fairly well 42

**TOTAL WELL 62**

Fairly badly 19  
Very badly 11

**TOTAL BADLY 30**

Don't know 7

**Harriet Harman, deputy leader of the Labour Party**

Very well	16
Fairly well	42
<b>TOTAL WELL</b>	<b>58</b>
Fairly badly	22
Very badly	10
<b>TOTAL BADLY</b>	<b>32</b>
Don't know	10

In politics, people sometimes talk about parties and politicians as being on the left or right. Using the scale below, where would you place each of the following on that scale?

**Where would you place yourself on this scale?**

Very left-wing	11
Fairly left-wing	35
Slightly left-of-centre	32
Centre	14
Slightly right-of-centre	3
Fairly right-wing	1
Very right-wing	1
Don't know	5

**And where would you place Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister?**

Very left-wing	2
Fairly left-wing	14
Slightly left-of-centre	43
Centre	20
Slightly right-of-centre	9
Fairly right-wing	4
Very right-wing	1
Don't know	5

**Where would you place David Cameron, the Conservative leader?**

Very left-wing	1
Fairly left-wing	1
Slightly left-of-centre	4
Centre	7
Slightly right-of-centre	19
Fairly right-wing	36
Very right-wing	26
Don't know	8

**Where would you place Lord (Peter) Mandelson, the Business Secretary?**

Very left-wing	1
Fairly left-wing	6
Slightly left-of-centre	25
Centre	29
Slightly right-of-centre	19
Fairly right-wing	8
Very right-wing	3
Don't know	10

**Overall, do you think the Government's measures for tackling Britain's recession....**

Have started to work	17
Will start to work in the near future	35
Will start to work but not for some time	33
Will make little or no difference to the economy	8
Will end up making things worse	4
Don't know	3

**Which of these views comes closest to your own?**

'We are currently living through a serious crisis of capitalism. The time has come for Britain to abandon capitalism, and to embrace full-blooded socialism, with all major enterprises owned either by the state or by workers' co-operatives'	13
'Capitalism needs to be radically reformed, but not abandoned. The Government should pass laws to regulate banks and big companies much more closely, outlaw big bonuses, and require all major companies to have workers' representatives on their boards'	47
'Capitalism needs to be reformed, but we must be careful not to discourage enterprise and innovation. A limited amount of further regulation may be needed, but its aim should be to prevent bad behaviour, not to tie businesses up in red tape'	32
'For all its faults, capitalism is the best system for generating prosperity. The Government should resist using the current recession to impose new regulations, for these could end up doing more harm than good'	4
Don't know	5

**And which of these views comes closer to your own?**

'There's plenty of scope for the Government to raise taxes on people earning more than £100,000 a year without damaging the economy'	80
'It could do more harm than good to impose big tax increases on people earning more than £100,000 a year, for many of them will either find ways to avoid higher taxes, or leave Britain and work elsewhere'	15
Don't know	6

**Would you support or oppose a new law to limit bonuses paid by banks receiving support from the Government?**

Yes – bonuses should be limited to bank employees earning less than £100,00 a year	13
Yes – bonuses should be limited to bank employees earning less than £50,000 a year	21
Yes – bonuses should be limited to bank employees earning less than £525,000 a year	20
Yes – bonuses should be banned altogether for the time being	32
No – bonuses that are part of employees' contracts should continue to be paid	9
Don't know	5

**The Government has proposed a series of welfare reforms. These include requiring unemployed people receiving Job Seekers' Allowance to demonstrate that they really are seeking work or face a cut in their benefits. Do you think this proposal should be...**

Implemented as planned	50
Delayed until after the recession is over, and jobs are more readily available	35
Scrapped altogether	11
Don't know	5

Some ministers are reported to want to defer introducing new regulations on companies concerning their practices on equality (in relation to gender, race, disability etc) on the grounds that a recession is a bad time to add to the costs of private companies. Do you think the regulations should be...

Implemented as planned	62
Delayed until after the recession is over	24
Scrapped altogether	8
Don't know	6

It has been suggested that the Government impose a windfall tax on the profits made last year by the energy companies. Do you support or oppose this idea?

Support	81
Oppose	9
Don't know	10

Turning now to the Royal Mail, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the service it currently provides?

Very satisfied	23
Fairly satisfied	51

**TOTAL SATISFIED 74**

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	12
Fairly dissatisfied	10
Very dissatisfied	4

**TOTAL DISSATISFIED 14**

Don't know	1
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The Government is proposing to sell a minority stake in the Royal Mail. Which of these policies do you think would be best?

Not to sell any of the Royal Mail and keep it as a wholly publicly-owned organisation	66
Sell a minority stake in the Royal Mail to a private investor	24
Privatise the Royal Mail entirely	5
Don't know	6

If the Government does sell a minority stake in the Royal Mail, do you think it should insist that the new part-owners are British, or should they consider selling to an investor or investors abroad?

New part-owners must be British	57
New part-owners need not be British	29
Don't know	14

Labour's election manifesto in 2005 said the Government had "no plans to privatise" the Royal Mail. Leaving aside your views as to what should now happen to the Royal Mail, do you think selling a minority stake is consistent with a promise not to privatise Royal Mail?

Government policy is consistent with 2005 manifesto	30
Selling a minority stake would break Labour's manifesto pledge	60
Don't know	10

**The Government's proposal would separate the Royal Mail from Post Offices and the postal counter service, which would remain in public ownership. Leaving aside whether they should be privately or publicly owned, do you think the Royal Mail and Post Offices should remain as a single organisation?**

Yes, they should remain a single organisation	<b>61</b>
No, it is sensible to split them up	<b>16</b>
It doesn't matter much one way or the other	<b>16</b>
Don't know	<b>7</b>

**One suggestion is that the Royal Mail should be an independently-run, not-for-profit public corporation like the BBC, with commercial powers to borrow. In the long-run what do you think would be best for the Royal Mail?**

To continue to be publicly-owned like today	<b>43</b>
To be majority-owned by the state but with a minority stake	<b>15</b>
To be run as an independent public corporation like the BBC	<b>32</b>
To be run as a private company	<b>3</b>
Don't know	<b>7</b>

**The Royal Mail pension fund has a large deficit. One reason is that in recent years the Government has not contributed to the fund as it used to. Do you think the Government should now...**

Use public money to replenish the pension fund, even if this means higher taxes, extra borrowing, or cuts elsewhere	<b>46</b>
Seek investment from the private sector, even if this means selling a minority stake in the Royal Mail	<b>26</b>
Instruct the Royal Mail to reduce the benefits that current Royal Mail employees would receive when they retire	<b>12</b>
Don't know	<b>16</b>