

IMMIGRATION

Labour's Immigration Policies Seen as Failure by Most Britons

Two-in-five respondents believe the Conservatives would be more successful at capping immigration.

[LONDON – Apr. 4, 2010] – People in Great Britain appear disappointed with the way the governing Labour Party has dealt with the issue of immigration, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted for the *Sunday Express* has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,991 British adults, three-in-four respondents (75%) believe the immigration policy of the Labour Party has been "generally a failure" or "more of a failure than a success" during the last 13 years of government.

Labour's immigration policy gets its highest marks in London and Scotland, where more than a third of respondents (37% and 38% respectively) brand it as "generally a success" or "more of a success than a failure."

Respondents flatly rejected the concept of unlimited immigration, with 84 per cent of respondents claiming that this policy would be "bad" for Britain.

When asked which of the three main parties would do the best job at capping immigration, 41 per cent of respondents select the opposition Conservatives for this task. Labour is a distant second with 12 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with nine per cent. However, 39 per cent of respondents are undecided.

KEY FINDINGS

- **75% regard the immigration policy of the Labour party as a failure during the last 13 years of government**
- **84% believe that unlimited immigration is bad for Britain**
- **41% pick the Tories as the most successful party to cap immigration, 12% select Labour, 9% pick Lib-Dems**
- **Voting Intention: Con. 38%, Lab. 27%, Lib-Dem 20%**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From March 31 to April 1, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,991 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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Voting Intention

The Tories head into the General Election campaign with a double-digit lead, as Labour remains below the 30 per cent mark and the Lib-Dems have lost some ground.

Across Great Britain, 38 per cent of decided voters and leaners (+1) would support the Conservative candidate in their constituency if a General Election were held tomorrow. The governing Labour Party remains in second place with 27 per cent (-1), followed by the Liberal Democrats with 20 per cent (-2).

The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) is fourth with five per cent (=), followed by the British National Party (BNP) with four per cent (+1), and the Green Party also with three per cent (+1).

Analysis

With an election call expected in a matter of hours, the Conservatives clearly hold the upper hand on the issue of immigration. A large proportion of the population is not satisfied with the way Labour has handled this file, even in areas where Labour is expected to perform reasonably well next month.

Still, some voters who are primarily concerned with immigration are currently endorsing minor parties, particularly UKIP and to a lesser extent the BNP. The eventual fate of these voters will greatly depend on which candidates actually run in specific constituencies, and could end up providing an added boost to the Conservatives on Election Day.

Download Full Tables

http://www.visioncritical.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/table_immi_express_bri.pdf

Download Full Methodology Statement

http://www.visioncritical.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/2010-04-01_UK_Method.pdf

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GB Political Scene

If a General Election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency? - *Decided Voters with Leaners*

	Mar. 31 - Apr. 1	Mar. 30-31	Mar. 15-16
Conservative	38%	37%	39%
Labour	27%	28%	26%
Liberal Democrats	20%	22%	21%
United Kingdom Independence Party	5%	5%	5%
British National Party	4%	3%	4%
Green Party	3%	2%	2%
Scottish National Party	2%	2%	2%
Plaid Cymru	1%	0%	1%
Other	1%	1%	1%

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Immigration

Would you say the immigration policy of the Labour Party has been a success or failure during the last 13 years of government?

	Region					
	Great Britain	London	South of England	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland
Generally a success	4%	8%	4%	4%	3%	6%
A mix but more of a success than a failure	21%	29%	17%	18%	21%	32%
A mix but more of a failure than a success	33%	28%	31%	32%	36%	38%
Generally a failure	42%	36%	48%	46%	41%	25%

Immigration

Do you believe that unlimited immigration is good or bad for Britain?

	Region					
	Great Britain	London	South of England	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland
Very good	2%	5%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Quite good	8%	14%	6%	7%	7%	10%
Quite bad	25%	28%	26%	20%	24%	31%
Very bad	59%	45%	62%	66%	61%	53%
Don't know	6%	9%	4%	5%	6%	5%

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Immigration

Regardless of whether or not you think capping immigration is the right policy, which of Conservatives, Labour or the Liberal Democrats do you think would be most successful at capping immigration?

	Region					
	Great Britain	London	South of England	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland
Conservative	41%	39%	45%	41%	37%	37%
Labour	12%	17%	9%	10%	12%	21%
Liberal Democrats	9%	7%	10%	8%	8%	9%
Don't know	39%	37%	36%	41%	43%	33%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specialising in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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