

SALARIES OF POLITICIANS

Americans, Britons and Canadians Review Salaries of Heads of Government

Respondents in the United States are almost evenly divided on whether their President earns too much in a year or the right amount.

[NEW YORK – Jun. 18, 2010] – About half of Britons and Canadians believe the annual salaries of their heads of government are about right, but Americans are split on whether the income of their president is too high or reasonable, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of representative national samples asked respondents in Canada, the United States and Britain about the annual salaries of the three politicians who will head to Toronto next week for the G8 summit: Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, U.S. President Barack Obama, and British Prime Minister David Cameron.

How much are they paid?

Britons are definitely more likely than Canadians or Americans to have a clear idea of what the annual salary of their head of government is.

In Britain, half of respondents (49%) know that their prime minister earns from £101,000 to £200,000 a year. Only 11 per cent think he makes less, while 30 per cent assume he earns more.

KEY FINDINGS

- **49% of Britons know how much their Prime Minister earns in a year; only 14% of Americans and 14% of Canadians know what their heads of government make**
- **49% of Canadians and 48% of Britons say the salaries of their heads of government are “about right”, along with 40% of Americans.**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 8 to June 14, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,006 Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists, 1,004 American adults who are Springboard America panellists, and 2,003 British adults who are Springboard UK panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for Canada and the United States, and 2.2 per cent for Great Britain. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada, the US and Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Only 14 per cent of Canadians accurately say that the annual salary of their prime minister ranges from \$301,000 to \$400,000. Almost one-in-five (17%) think the head of government makes more, while three-in-five (59%) suppose he earns less.

The United States yielded similar results, with just 14 per cent of respondents providing the correct answer (from \$301,000 to \$400,000). While 28 per cent of respondents think their head of state earns more, 44 per cent believe he makes less.

Are they worth it?

Once respondents were informed of the annual salaries of their heads of government—which in the cases of Canada and Great Britain include income earned as Members of Parliament—they were asked whether these politicians are paid too much, about right, or too little.

Half of Canadians (49%) and Britons (48%) believe the salaries are correct, along with 40 per cent of Americans. However, more than a third of respondents in Canada (36%) and the United States (also 36%) consider these annual salaries as too high, while just 30 per cent of Britons concur.

Also, while only eight per cent of Canadians think their head of government is paid too little, 17 per cent of respondents in both the United States and Britain share this view about their own leaders.

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Salaries of Politicians

CANADA



What do you think the annual salary of the Prime Minister of Canada is?
(Including his income as a Member of Parliament)

Less than \$100,000	2%
From \$101,000 to \$200,000	29%
From \$201,000 to \$300,000	28%
From \$301,000 to \$400,000	14%
From \$401,000 to \$500,000	7%
More than \$500,000	10%
Not sure	10%

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Salaries of Politicians

UNITED STATES



What do you think the annual salary of the President of the United States is?

Less than \$100,000	5%
From \$101,000 to \$200,000	17%
From \$201,000 to \$300,000	22%
From \$301,000 to \$400,000	14%
From \$401,000 to \$500,000	13%
More than \$500,000	15%
Not sure	14%

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Salaries of Politicians

GREAT BRITAIN



What do you think the annual salary of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is?
(Including his income as a Member of Parliament)

Less than £100,000	11%
From £101,000 to £200,000	49%
From £201,000 to £300,000	13%
From £301,000 to £400,000	5%
From £401,000 to £500,000	4%
More than £500,000	7%
Not sure	12%

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Salaries of Politicians

Canada: The Prime Minister's annual salary is \$301,600. All things considered, do you think the Prime Minister is paid too much, about right, or too little?

United States: The President's annual salary is \$400,000. All things considered, do you think the President is paid too much, about right, or too little?

Great Britain: The Prime Minister's annual salary is £142,500. All things considered, do you think the Prime Minister is paid too much, about right, or too little?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Too much	36%	36%	30%
About right	49%	40%	48%
Too little	8%	17%	17%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing 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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