



A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany

Politics

If Bundestag elections had been held on May 1, the CDU/CSU would have received 36% of the vote, the SPD 25%, the Green Party 9%, the FDP 15%, the Left Party 9%, and all other parties combined 6%. (Forsa. 04/29/09)

Seventy percent of Germans would elect incumbent Horst Köhler as Chancellor, while 14% would vote for SPD challenger Gesine Schwan, and 4% for Left Party candidate Peter Sodann. (Infratest dimpa. 04/17/09)

Sixty-two percent of voters do not know that there will be elections for the European Parliament in seven weeks. Among the Germans who were interviewed, 38% said they would go to the elections, though European-wide only 28% planned to participate. (Eurobarometer. Die Welt, 04/16/09)

According to an opinion poll among 800 leading managers in Germany, Economics Minister Karl Theodor zu Guttenberg is the most popular German minister. Asked whether politicians did a good job over the past few weeks, zu Guttenberg reached 2.5 on a scale from 1 (very good) to 5 (very bad). He is followed by Chancellor Merkel (2.9) and Finance Minister Steinbrück (2.9). (Psephos Opinion Poll. Handelsblatt, 04/15/09)

Forty-three percent of respondents said that they rely the most on the CDU when it comes to resolving the financial crisis (down 10% compared to the figures from 12/08), 16% the SPD (up one), and 25% said neither of the parties, or no preference (up 5%). (Die Welt. 04/14/09)

Economy

According to the leading German economic research institutions, the German economy will be confronted with a GDP decline of 6%. The number of jobless could grow by one million to 4.7 million. The institutions assume that the German economy will shrink by only 0.5% in 2010. (Major papers, 04/23/09)

Thirty-eight percent of Germans said they want to spend less this year due to the economic and financial crisis. Seventy percent are expecting constant or even increasing salaries, while 20% said their wages are likely to decline and 10% said they will earn less. Forty-three percent of respondents said that they rely the most on the CDU when it comes to resolving the financial crisis (down ten percent compared to the figures from 12/08), 16% the SPD (up one), and 25% said neither of the parties, or no preference (up 5% percent). (Der Spiegel, 04/14/09)

The unemployment rate remained at 8.6% in April. (Federal Labor Agency. 04/30/09)

Society

The more than 3,000 registered diplomatic cars violated German traffic laws 8,400 times last year. Fifty-five embassy members were involved in car accidents, and in half of those cases, the diplomats were involved in a hit and run accident and fled before police arrived on the scene. At top on the list of offenders were diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Russia, Egypt, and China. (Tagesspiegel, 04/20/09)

According to the circulation figures for the first quarter of 2009, Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung increased its circulation to 337,403 copies, an increase of 3.5% compared to the figures from the same period last year. Frankfurter Rundschau lost 1.0% and now has a circulation of 152,199 copies. Sueddeutsche had the biggest circulation among the dailies with 444,983 copies (down 1.2%). FAZ increased to 369,051 copies (up 0.1%), Die Welt and Welt kompakt dropped to 278,141 copies (down 3.2%). Handelsblatt sold 147,839 copies (down 1.1%). (04/17/09)

The number of births in Germany dropped in 2008 despite the introduction of a parental allowance. Last year, 675,000 babies were born, 8,000 fewer than in 2007. (Major papers, 04/08/09)

Ninety percent of Germans support a global control of international financial markets; 79% back special economic stimulus programs that push climate and environmental protection; 76% support special programs that help developing countries that have been hardest hit by the financial crisis; and 66% back loan-backed economic programs to stimulate the global economy. (DeutschlandTrend. Major papers, 04./03/09)

A majority of Germans are opposed to continuing the Bundeswehr mission in Afghanistan. While 64% of Germans said they favor a quick withdrawal from Afghanistan, 32% supported the deployment of troops. Among SPD, FDP, and Green Party followers, support for the Afghanistan mission is down between 10% to 13%. The support declined by 7% among CDU/CSU followers. (Infratest Dimap. Major papers, 04/03/09)

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