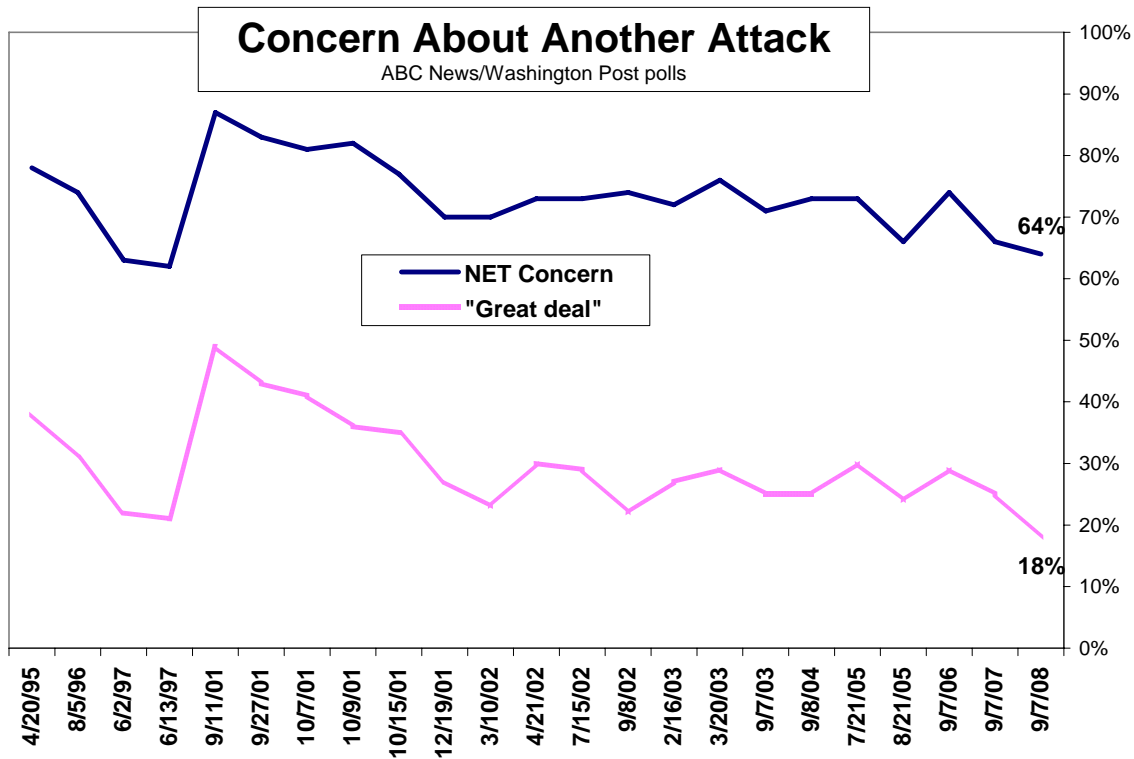


Terrorism Fears at Low Ebb Seven Years after Sept. 11

Seven years after 9/11, concerns about a major terrorist attack in this country have subsided to their lowest since 1997, while ratings of the U.S. campaign against terrorism have improved from their subdued level the last two years.

Apprehension about terrorism remains widespread; 64 percent of Americans in this ABC News/Washington Post poll are concerned about the possibility of another major attack. But that's down 10 points from two years ago and near the low in polls back 13 years.

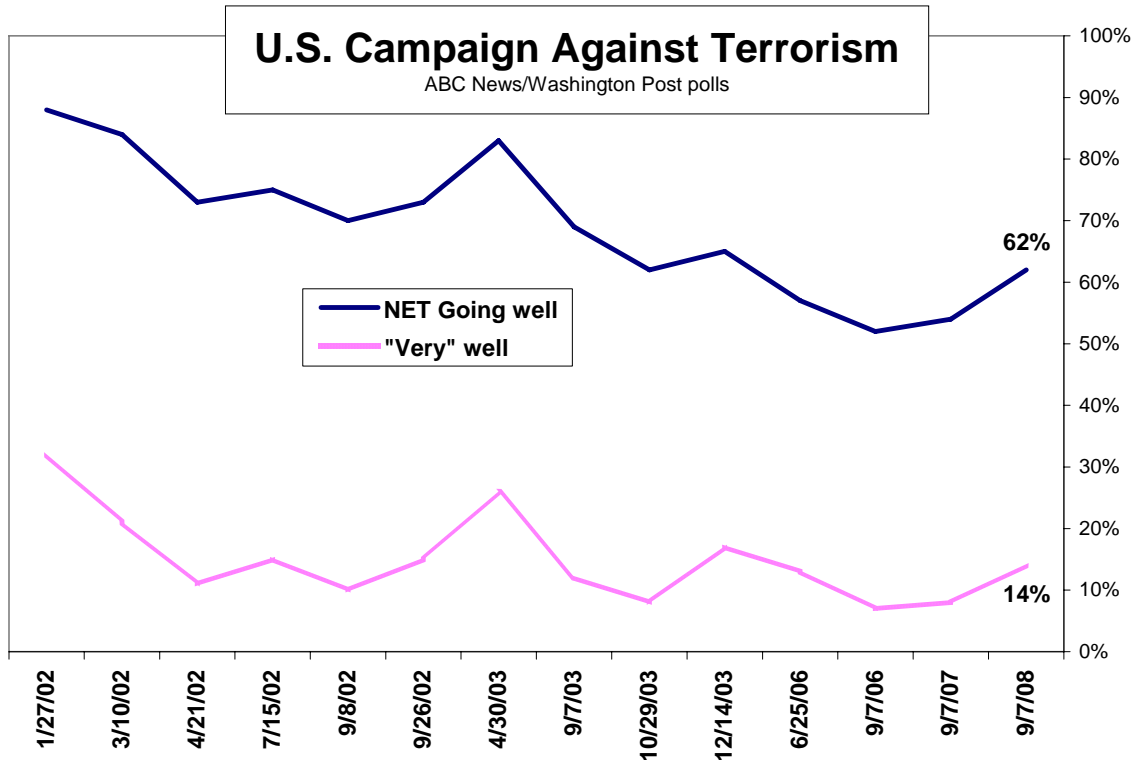
High-level worry, in particular, is notably down – 18 percent express a “great deal” of concern about another attack, compared with 25 percent this time last year, 30 percent in summer 2005 and a high of 49 percent the night of 9/11 itself.



The absence of another attack and the passage of time from 9/11 may be playing a role; so too may better assessments of the situation in Iraq. Fifty-two percent say the United States is making significant progress restoring civil order there, up from 40 percent last

spring to the most in the past four years, save for a blip immediately after the capture of Saddam Hussein. Six in 10, nonetheless, still say the war was not worth fighting.

All told, 62 percent of Americans say the U.S. campaign against terrorism is going well, up from a low of 52 percent in early September 2006 (and 54 percent at this time last year). That’s still well down, though, from its high, 88 percent in early 2002, in the early days of the invasion of Afghanistan. And the endorsement is far from full-throated; just 14 percent say U.S. anti-terrorism efforts are going “very well.”



Sixty-two percent also think the United States is safer from terrorism now than it was before 9/11, about the same as last year but up from just 50 percent in 2006. Again, though, many fewer – 25 percent – think the country is “much” safer.

ELECTION – In election terms the Iraq war and the U.S. campaign against terrorism run far below economic concerns as the public’s single top voting issue. As the economy’s worsened the past year it’s rapidly supplanted Iraq: A year ago 11 percent called the economy their No. 1 concern, vs. 35 percent who said it was the Iraq war. Now those numbers are reversed: 41 percent economy, 10 percent Iraq.

Six percent cite terrorism as their single greatest concern.

These issues do differentiate the candidates. Registered voters prefer John McCain over Barack Obama by 20 points, 56-36 percent, to better handle terrorism – McCain’s single biggest advantage on any of 10 issues tested in this poll – and by 17 points, 54-37

percent, to handle an unexpected major crisis. On personal attributes McCain, given his military background, has a 45-point advantage as the better commander-in-chief.

McCain holds a 10-point edge, 51-41 percent, in trust to handle the Iraq war, his best improvement on any issue after his nominating convention. Previously he and Obama were even on Iraq.

PARTISANSHIP – Views on the U.S. campaign against terrorism are very highly partisan. Eighty-seven percent of Republicans say it's going well, and 83 percent say the country is safer now than before 9/11. Among Democrats these shrink to 49 and 45 percent, respectively, with independents between the two extremes.

Still, the partisan gap on U.S anti-terrorism efforts is narrower now than at its widest in September 2006. That's because positive assessments of the campaign against terrorism have improved by 20 points among independents and 16 points among Democrats.

	War on terrorism going well		
	9/08	9/06	Change
All	62%	52	+10
Dem	49	33	+16
Ind	61	41	+20
Rep	87	81	+6

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 5-7, 2008, among a random national sample of 1,133 adults, including an oversample of African Americans (weighted to their correct share of the national population), for a total of 211 black respondents. Results have a 3-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer, with Scott F. Clement and Emily B. Guskin.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1-20 previously released.

21. On another topic, all in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Worth fighting -----			--- Not worth fighting ---			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/7/08	36	24	13	61	13	48	3
8/22/08	35	22	13	63	13	50	2
7/13/08	36	22	13	63	13	50	1
6/15/08	34	21	13	63	9	54	3
4/13/08	34	24	11	64	11	52	2

3/2/08	34	24	11	63	12	51	2	
2/1/08	34	23	11	65	11	53	1	
1/12/08	35	21	13	64	13	51	2	
12/9/07	37	25	12	61	11	50	2	
11/1/07	35	23	12	63	12	51	2	
9/30/07	38	25	14	59	12	47	3	
9/7/07	36	23	13	62	11	51	2	
7/21/07	36	25	12	63	10	53	1	
6/1/07	37	24	12	61	12	50	2	
4/15/07	33	22	11	66	12	54	1	
2/25/07	34	22	12	64	13	51	2	
1/10/07	40	28	12	58	11	47	2	
12/11/06	36	25	11	61	12	50	2	
11/4/06	RV	44	33	12	53	10	44	2
10/22/06	40	28	12	57	11	47	2	
10/8/06	35	25	10	63	13	50	2	
9/7/06	42	29	13	56	11	45	2	
8/6/06	39	29	10	59	12	47	1	
6/25/06	40	25	15	58	13	45	2	
5/15/06	37	24	14	62	12	50	1	
4/9/06	41	30	11	58	10	48	1	
3/5/06	42	29	14	57	11	46	1	
1/26/06	44	32	12	55	13	42	1	
1/8/06	43	30	13	55	12	43	2	
12/18/05	46	33	14	52	11	42	1	
11/2/05	39	25	13	60	12	48	1	
8/28/05	46	33	12	53	9	44	1	
6/26/05	46	33	13	53	10	43	1	
6/5/05	41	29	12	58	12	46	1	
4/24/05	44	31	13	54	12	42	2	
3/13/05	45	34	11	53	11	42	2	
1/16/05	44	32	12	55	10	45	1	
12/19/04	42	31	11	56	10	47	2	
10/3/04	LV	49	34	15	48	11	37	3
9/26/04	RV	46	35	12	51	8	42	3
9/8/04	RV	51	38	13	45	10	34	4
8/29/04	RV	48	34	14	50	11	39	2
7/25/04	49	36	13	48	11	37	3	
7/11/04	45	34	10	53	12	42	2	
6/20/04	47	32	14	52	13	39	2	
5/23/04	48	35	13	50	13	37	1	
5/6/04	49	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	5	
4/18/04	51	"	"	47	"	"	2	
3/7/04	52			44			3	
2/11/04	48			50			2	
1/18/04	56			41			3	
12/21/03	59			39			2	
12/14/03	53			42			5	
11/16/03	52			44			4	
10/29/03	54			44			2	
10/13/03	54			44			2	
9/13/03	61			37			2	
9/7/03	54			42			4	
8/24/03	57			37			5	
8/11/03	61			35			4	
7/10/03	57			40			3	
6/22/03	64			33			3	
4/30/03	70			27			4	
2/2/92*	66			32			2	
7/28/91	67			30			3	
6/2/91	70			26			3	
3/4/91	86			13			1	

*2/2/92 and previous: "the Persian Gulf war"; 3/4/91: "this war"

22. Do you think the United States is or is not making significant progress toward restoring civil order in Iraq?

	Is making significant progress	Is not making significant progress	No opinion
9/7/08	52	40	7
8/22/08	50	46	4
7/13/08	46	51	3
4/13/08	40	57	3
3/2/08	43	51	6
2/1/08	42	54	4
1/12/08	42	54	4
12/9/07	41	55	4
11/1/07	39	59	2
9/7/07	36	60	4
6/1/07	32	64	4
12/11/06	31	66	3
6/25/06	48	49	2
3/5/06	43	56	2
12/18/05	60	37	2
11/2/05	44	55	2
8/28/05	48	50	2
6/26/05	48	51	1
12/19/04	44	49	7
6/20/04	51	48	1

23 held for release.

24. Do you think the U.S. campaign against terrorism is going very well, fairly well, not too well or not well at all?

	----- Well -----			----- Not well -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	At all	
9/7/08	62	14	48	34	20	14	3
9/7/07	54	8	46	45	23	21	1
9/7/06	52	7	45	47	26	21	1
6/25/06	57	13	44	40	23	18	2
12/14/03	65	17	47	33	21	12	2
10/29/03	62	8	54	38	23	14	1
9/7/03	69	12	57	29	19	10	2
4/30/03	83	26	57	16	10	6	1
9/26/02	73	15	58	26	17	9	1
9/8/02	70	10	60	29	21	8	1
7/15/02	75	15	60	24	16	8	1
4/21/02	73	11	63	26	17	9	1
3/10/02	84	21	63	15	10	6	1
1/27/02	88	32	56	11	8	4	1

25. Compared to before September 11, 2001, do you think the country today is safer from terrorism or less safe from terrorism? IF SAFER: Would you say the country is much safer or somewhat safer? IF LESS SAFE: Would you say the country is much less safe or somewhat less safe?

	----- Safer -----			---- Less safe ---			No difference (vol.)	No opinion
	NET	Much	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Much		
9/7/08	62	25	37	29	19	10	7	2
9/7/07	60	24	36	29	17	11	11	1
10/8/06	50	20	30	42	NA	NA	7	1
9/7/06	55	19	36	37			6	2

6/25/06	59	24	35	33	7	1
3/5/06	56	22	33	35	8	1
1/26/06	64	24	41	30	6	*
8/21/05	49	14	35	38	11	2
10/3/04 LV	62	29	33	29	7	2
9/26/04 RV	59	24	35	34	5	2
9/8/04 RV	64	26	38	28	5	3
8/29/04 RV	60	24	36	31	7	2
1/18/04	67	28	39	24	8	1
9/7/03	67	24	42	27	4	2

26. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in the United States - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all?

	----- Concerned -----			---- Not concerned ----			No
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	At all	opinion
9/7/08	64	18	46	36	23	13	*
9/7/07	66	25	41	34	23	10	*
9/7/06	74	29	45	25	17	8	*
8/21/05	66	24	42	33	23	10	1
7/21/05	73	30	43	27	17	10	*
9/8/04 RV	73	25	47	27	20	7	1
9/7/03	71	25	46	29	20	9	*
3/20/03	76	29	47	24	16	8	1
2/16/03	72	27	45	27	18	9	1
9/8/02	74	22	52	26	19	7	0
7/15/02	73	29	44	27	20	7	*
4/21/02	73	30	43	26	18	9	*
3/10/02	70	23	47	30	21	9	1
12/19/01	70	27	43	29	22	8	1
10/15/01	77	35	43	23	14	9	0
10/9/01	82	36	46	18	12	6	*
10/7/01	81	41	40	18	13	4	1
9/27/01*	83	43	39	17	12	5	*
9/11/01	87	49	38	12	7	4	1
6/13/97	62	21	41	38	24	14	*
6/2/97	63	22	41	37	28	9	*
8/5/96	74	31	43	26	18	8	*
4/20/95	78	38	40	21	16	5	1

*9/27/01 and previous: "How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in this country."

27-30 held for release.