

CANADIAN PRESS / LÉGER MARKETING

How Canadians Feel about the U.S. Threat to Iraq

Report



1.0 Study Highlights

- Iraq poses a threat to the United States.

Question : *Do you think Iraq poses a real threat to the United States ?*

| n=1500 | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refusal |
|--------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Canada | 46% | 38% | 16% |

- Canadians don't find Bush's reasons for attacking Iraq very convincing.

Question : *Do you think George W. Bush's arguments provide enough justification for the United States' intention to attack Iraq?*

| n=1500 | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refusal |
|--------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Canada | 22% | 54% | 24% |

- Iraq's openness towards UN inspections is not very convincing either.

Question : *Given that the President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, has given the United Nations the right to inspect Iraq's installations to make sure they are not currently making biological, chemical or nuclear weapons, do you think Iraq is showing good faith?*

| n=1500 | Good faith | No | Don't know / Refusal |
|--------|------------|-----|-------------------------|
| Canada | 31% | 50% | 19% |

- Canadian support towards U.S. military interventions could bring about reprisals from the countries under attack.

Question : *When Canada supports the United States' military interventions, are you afraid Canada might suffer reprisals from the countries in conflict with the U.S.?*

| n=1500 | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refusal |
|--------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Canada | 57% | 35% | 8% |

2. Results

2.1 Iraq poses a threat to the United States.

46% of Canadians feel that Iraq poses a threat to the United States, while 38% think the opposite and 16% do not have an opinion.

This feeling that Iraq poses a threat was particularly pronounced among 49% of women, 52% of francophones and 54% of manual workers. However, 46% of men, 47% of British Columbians, 48% of university graduates, 54% of students and 44% of professionals did not feel this way.

Question : *Do you think Iraq poses a real threat to the United States ?*

| n=1500 | Yes | No | Don't know/Refusal |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Men | 43% | 46% | 10% |
| Women | 49% | 30% | 22% |
| French Mother Tongue | 52% | 37% | 11% |
| English Mother Tongue | 45% | 39% | 16% |
| Other Mother Tongue | 41% | 37% | 21% |
| Canada | 46% | 38% | 16% |

2.2 Canadians don't find Bush's reasons for attacking Iraq very convincing

54% of Canadians did not think George W. Bush's arguments justified a U.S. attack on Iraq. However, 22% of the population found his arguments valid, while 24% did not have an opinion.

Quebeckers (63%), those over 65 years of age (65%), university graduates (67%) and professionals (62%) were not convinced by George W. Bush's arguments. However, the U.S. president did manage to convince 34% of Prairie residents, 26% of men, 29% of 35-44 year olds and 30% of manual workers.

Question : *Do you think George W. Bush's arguments provide enough justification for the United States' intention to attack Iraq?*

| n=1500 | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refusal |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Atlantic Provinces | 23% | 50% | 27% |
| Quebec | 20% | 63% | 16% |
| Ontario | 22% | 50% | 29% |
| Prairies | 34% | 45% | 21% |
| Alberta | 21% | 55% | 25% |
| British Columbia | 22% | 58% | 19% |
| Canada | 22% | 54% | 24% |

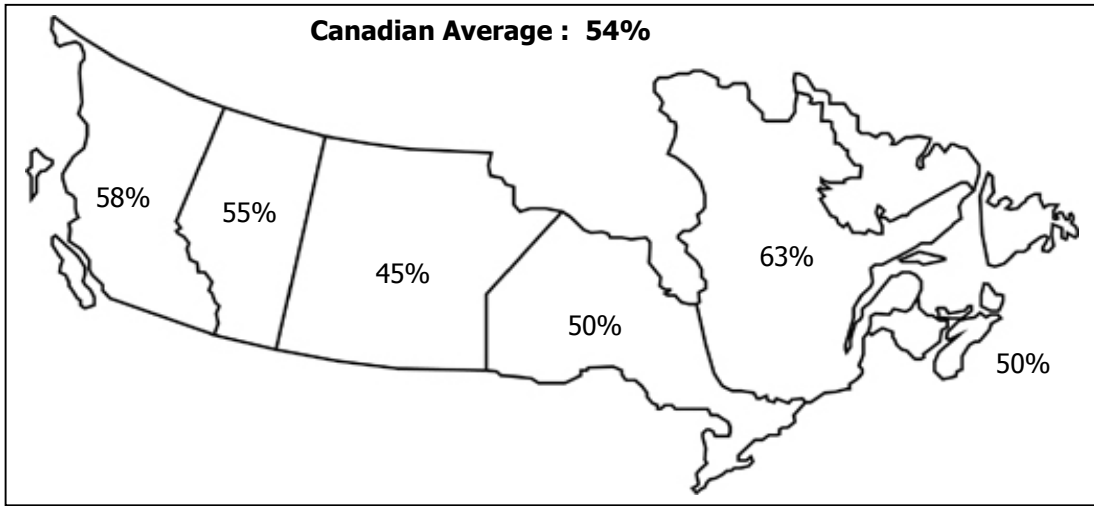
It should be highlighted that 39% of Canadians have a poor opinion of the American president, while 33% have a good one and 26% say they either don't know enough about him to have an opinion or they don't know anything about him at all.

52% of Quebeckers, 46% of British Columbians, 51% of university graduates and 49% of professionals have a poor opinion of George W. Bush, whereas 38% of 35-44 year olds, 47% of manual workers and 38% of those with an elementary school education think the opposite.

Question : *Do you have a good opinion or a poor opinion of George W. Bush ?*

| n=1500 | Good | Poor | Doesn't know enough to have an opinion | Doesn't know anything about him at all | Refusal |
|--------------------|------|------|---|--|---------|
| Atlantic Provinces | 26% | 35% | 23% | 14% | 2% |
| Quebec | 33% | 52% | 10% | 2% | 3% |
| Ontario | 34% | 31% | 22% | 8% | 5% |
| Prairies | 30% | 31% | 28% | 9% | 2% |
| Alberta | 36% | 33% | 22% | 7% | 2% |
| British Columbia | 29% | 46% | 16% | 7% | 2% |
| Canada | 33% | 39% | 19% | 7% | 3% |

Percentage of Canadians who do not believe George W. Bush's arguments justify a U.S. attack on Iraq



2.3 Iraq's openness towards UN inspections is not very convincing either

49% of Canadians do not believe Saddam Hussein is acting in good faith despite the fact that he's agreed to allow UN inspectors to return to sites where Iraq could manufacture nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. However, 31% of Canadians trust him and 19% don't know.

Men (56%), those over 55 years of age (57%) and Prairie and Alberta residents (53%) are among those most likely to distrust Iraq. However, 38% of francophones, 39% of Quebecers and 49% of students think Iraq is acting in good faith.

Question : *Given that the President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, has given the United Nations the right to inspect Iraq's installations to make sure they are not currently making biological, chemical or nuclear weapons, do you think Iraq is showing good faith or not ?*

| n=1500 | Good faith | No | Don't know / Refusal |
|--------------------|------------|-----|----------------------|
| Atlantic Provinces | 32% | 45% | 23% |
| Quebec | 39% | 47% | 13% |
| Ontario | 27% | 51% | 22% |
| Prairies | 32% | 53% | 16% |
| Alberta | 23% | 53% | 24% |
| British Columbia | 34% | 48% | 18% |
| Canada | 31% | 50% | 19% |

2.4 Canadian support towards U.S. military interventions could bring about reprisals from the countries under attack

The majority of Canadians (83%) believe the United States should consult the countries that usually support them before undertaking any military attacks against other countries. However, 57% of Canadians believe Canada's support of U.S. military interventions in other countries could bring reprisals from the countries under attack. 35% of Canadians do not share this opinion.

Women (64%) and Quebeckers (64%) are more likely to fear reprisals from the countries under attack, whereas men (44%) are less likely to feel this way.

Question : *In general, do you think the Americans should consult the countries that normally support them before launching a military attack on another country?*

| n=1500 | Yes | No | Don't know/Refusal |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Men | 84% | 11% | 6% |
| Women | 83% | 8% | 10% |
| French Mother Tongue | 90% | 6% | 3% |
| English Mother Tongue | 82% | 10% | 8% |
| Other Mother Tongue | 78% | 10% | 12% |
| Canada | 83% | 9% | 8% |

Question : *When Canada supports the United States' military interventions, are you afraid Canada might suffer reprisals from the countries in conflict with the US?*

| n=1500 | Yes | No | Don't know/Refusal |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Men | 51% | 44% | 4% |
| Women | 64% | 26% | 10% |
| French Mother Tongue | 62% | 35% | 3% |
| English Mother Tongue | 56% | 37% | 7% |
| Other Mother Tongue | 58% | 29% | 14% |
| Canada | 57% | 35% | 8% |

3.0 Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1500 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres between August 20 and August 25, 2002. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to geographic location, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1500 respondents is of ± 2.5 , 19 times out of 20.