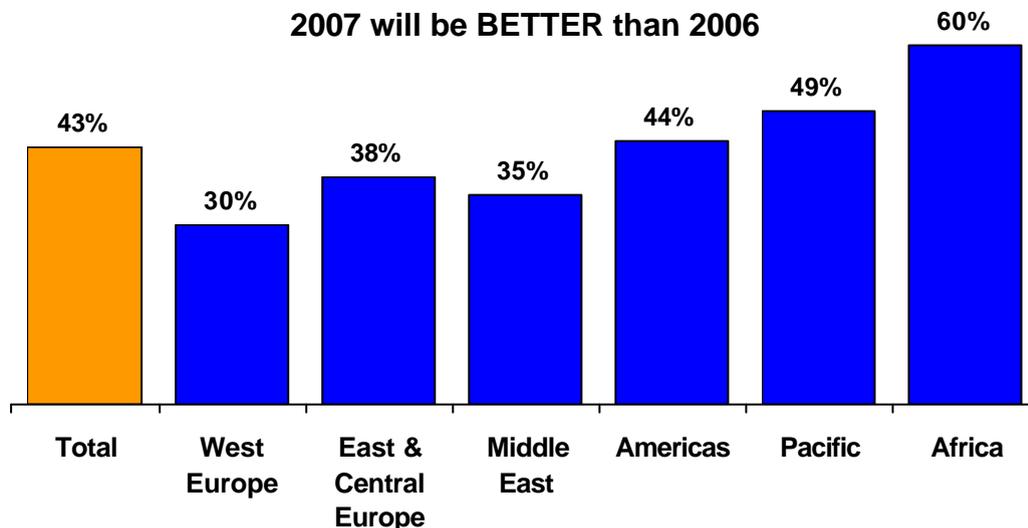


Press Release of Survey findings Voice of the People ©

- Four out of every ten (43%) of the 48,500 people who were interviewed in a **Gallup International Voice of the People © Survey** in 53 countries across the world thinks that 2007 will be a better year than 2006. The survey was conducted in November and December and asked “**So far as you are concerned, do you think that 2007 will be better, or worse than 2006?**”
- Optimism is particularly high in countries which are upbeat about economic prospects and do not have major concerns about unemployment or industrial disputes increasing in 2007.
- On the international front, over a third of those interviewed globally (35%) felt 2007 would be a troubled year, with much international discord; whilst only just over one in ten felt it would be a peaceful year (14%), the remaining 42% feeling that internationally, things will stay much as they were in 2006.



Source: Gallup International Voice of the People © 2006

Optimists and Pessimists

Looking at regions across the world, as in previous years, Africa is the most optimistic region, whilst Western Europe is the least optimistic about prospects for the coming year.

Turning to the results for individual countries, once again, Vietnam is the most optimistic place in the world, with more than nine out of every ten citizens interviewed in the four main cities (94%) saying 2007 will be better than 2006. Hong Kong is also very optimistic; with three quarters (74%) believing the coming year will be better than the outgoing one, closely followed by six Chinese cities where 73% thought the same. Ghana follows as the 4th most optimistic country in the survey (68%), with an almost identical proportion of Nigerians (66%) claiming the same. Next comes UN administered Kosovo where 65% think 2007 will be a better year.

These results are remarkably consistent – Vietnam has been at the head of the optimists' league for the last 4 years. Similarly, UN administered Kosovo has occupied one of the top places for the last 6 years. Africa is also consistently optimistic despite the very many real problems that the continent faces. The cities in China and Hong Kong, where the economy is booming, are also regular optimistic locations.

Last year, the survey was also conducted in Afghanistan and in Iraq. But the proportion of optimists in both these countries has dropped significantly this year, perhaps reflecting the increase in violence both countries have experienced. In Afghanistan only 45% felt 2007 would be a better year than 2006 – a drop from last year’s two thirds (69%) who felt 2006 would be a better year than 2005. In Iraq, only a third (33%) feels that 2007 will be a better year than 2006, whilst last year the figure was half of those interviewed (49%).

Top Optimists	
2007 will be <i>better</i> than 2006	
Vietnam	94%
Hong Kong	74%
China (6 cities)	73%
Ghana	68%
Nigeria	66%
UN Kosovo	65%
Canada	60%
Venezuela	57%
Argentina/Georgia	56%
Sweden	55%
Thailand	53%
Singapore/Norway	52%

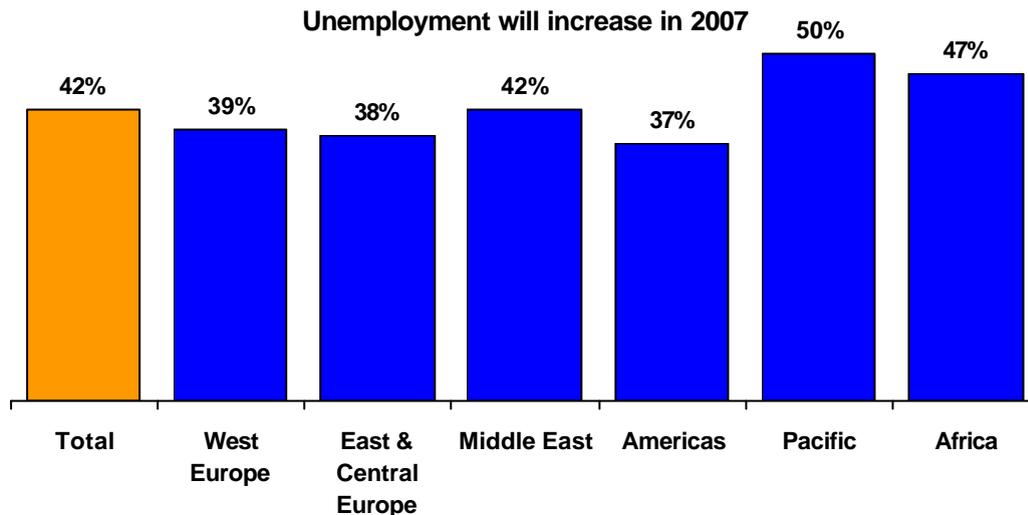
Looking at the other end of the optimism/pessimism scale, it is perhaps surprising to find so many European countries dominating the list of pessimists. Greece is the most pessimistic country in the survey with four out of ten of those interviewed (44%) saying 2007 will be worse than 2006. However, this is a drop from last year when more than half of all Greeks (54%) thought this! Several Mediterranean countries are pessimistic about prospect for the coming year as the table below shows, and even Germany has almost a third of those interviewed (31%) who think 2007 will not be as good a year as 2006. Also surprising is the inclusion of India in the pessimists’ league as the economy is booming in this newly emerging economic superpower.

Top Pessimists	
2007 will be <i>worse</i> than 2006	
Greece	44%
Portugal/Iraq	43%
Italy/Croatia	39%
Turkey/Bulgaria	36%
Egypt	35%
Philippines	34%
Indonesia	33%
India	32%
Germany	31%

Economic Prospects

Turning to look in more detail at views of economic prospects, a third of those questioned globally 31% think 2007 will be a year of economic prosperity, whilst fewer (23%) feel it will be a year of economic difficulty. Again, Africa is the most upbeat region about economic prospects – over half (56%) say next year will be one of economic prosperity.

Fears that unemployment will increase in 2007 have a major effect on whether people feel optimistic about economic prospects or not. Globally, more than four out of ten of those interviewed (42%) expect the number of unemployed in their country to increase either a lot or a little, whilst only a quarter (25%) feel unemployment will decrease.



Source: Gallup International Voice of the People © 2006

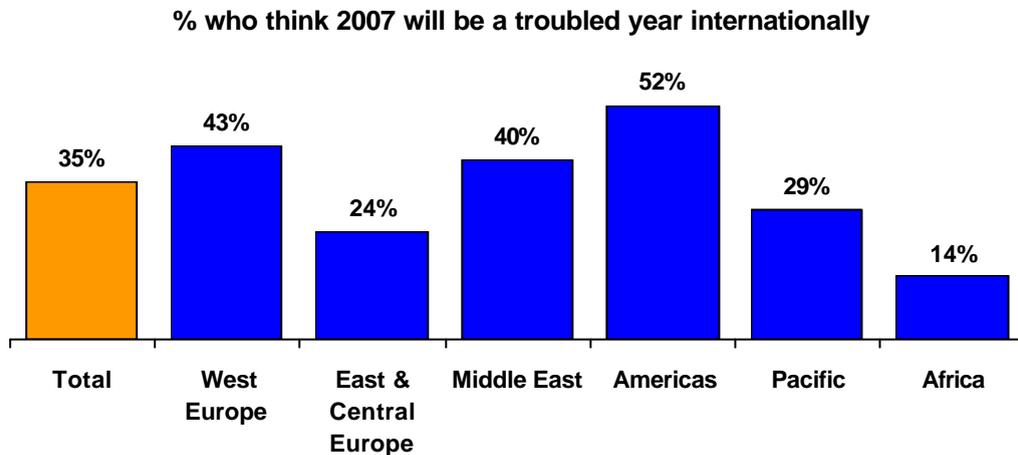
These fears are at their highest in the economies of the Pacific, although within the region, the pattern is not consistent, with some countries seeing unemployment decreasing in 2007 (e.g. 59% in Hong Kong, 49% in Vietnam and 35% in Singapore) but with significant proportions in the rest of the region predicting increases in unemployment.

All Europeans are gloomy about the economy – in Western Europe only 17% think the coming year will bring economic prosperity whilst a third (34%) feel 2007 will be a year of economic difficulty. In Eastern and Central Europe the figure is almost a quarter (23%) predicting prosperity and exactly the same proportion seeing economic difficulty in 2007. This may be because there is considerable anxiety about industrial unrest here – almost half of Western Europeans (46%) expect strikes and industrial disputes will increase in 2007, whilst only 7% think they will decrease. Eastern/Central Europeans are not quite so negative about prospects for strikes and industrial disputes – only a quarter (25%) think these will increase whilst half (50%) feel the level of unrest will stay the same as this year and 14% think it will decrease in 2007.

Nor are Americans upbeat about economic prospects – one in five (21%) think 2007 will be a year of economic prosperity whilst slightly more (26%) think it will be an economically difficult year. Four out of ten Americans (40%) expect unemployment to increase either a lot or a little in the USA, whilst only a quarter (25%) expects it to fall either a lot or a little.

A peaceful or troubled year internationally?

Finally, respondents were asked about prospects for international peace – whether they thought 2007 would be a peaceful year more or less free of international dispute, a troubled year with much international discord or remain the same as the outgoing year.



Source: Gallup International Voice of the People© 2006

The Americas (including North, Central and South) is the most pessimistic region regarding international prospects in the coming year. Overall in the region, more than half the citizens (52%) think 2007 will be a troubled year, with much international discord. In the USA, citizens are even more pessimistic – here close to six out of ten (58%) feel 2007 will be as troubled year on the international front and almost none (2%) feel the year will be peaceful. These figures are even more pessimistic than those collected last year in the USA.

Western Europe is the next most pessimistic region on this question – four out of every ten citizens in the region (43%) think 2007 will be a troubled year and less than one in ten (8%) think the opposite, i.e. that 2007 will be a peaceful year internationally.

Elsewhere in the world, citizens are only marginally less gloomy about international prospects for the coming year. Globally, one in three (35%) thinks 2007 will be a troubled year with much international discord, 42% think it will be much the same as last year and only 14% think that 2007 will be a peaceful year, more or less free of international dispute.

(Ends)

Editors note:

Please ensure the survey is credited fully as Gallup International Voice of the People© and that you refer to Gallup International Association (not Gallup or Gallup Poll).

Gallup International Association is registered in Zurich, Switzerland as a not-for-profit *verein* (*association*). George H Gallup and his European colleagues established it in 1947. Gallup International has member agencies in more than 65 countries across the world, conducting opinion and market research in over 100 countries.

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Tel: +44 20 7868 6655

For further information or individual countries, see the attached contact and methodology summary

www.gallup-international.com

Country <i>* Not a member</i>	Company	Contact	Sample		2006 Fieldwork	
			Mode	Type	Size	Dates
Afghanistan *	BBSS Gallup International		Face to face	National (18+)	2097	01/12/2006
Argentina	TNS Gallup Argentina	Constanza_cilley@tns-gallup.com.ar	Face to face	National (18+)	1000	13-16.10.2006
Australia	Roy Morgan	Gary.Morgan@roymorgan.com	Telephone	National (14+)	646	2-3.12.2006
Austria	Karmasin Institut	r.hasslinger@gallup.at	Face to face	National (14+)	875	20/11/2006
Belgium	TNS Dimarso	Ellie.jacques@tns-dimarso.com	Telephone	National (15+)	1000	29/11/2006
Bolivia	Encuestas & Estudios MARECO INDEX	proyectos@encuestas-estudios.com	Face to face	Urban (18+)	1284	29/11/2006
Bosnia	BOSNIA	aida.hadziavdic@mib.ba	CATI	National (18+)	500	02/11/2006
Bulgaria	BBSS Gallup International	m.stoychev@gallup-bbss.com	Face to face	National (18+)	1002	03/12/2006
Canada	Leger Marketing	ammarois@legermarketing.com	Telephone	National (18+) Urban / Main	1000	29/11/2006
China *	TNS China	Tammy.cao@tns-global.com	CATI	cities (18+)	600	39063
Croatia	PULS d.o.o.	Mirna.cvitan@puls.hr	Telephone	National (18+)	500	12/11/2006
Czech Republic	Mareco s.r.o.	trojacek@mareco.cz	Face to face	National (18+)	500	06/11/2006
Denmark	TNS - Gallup Rada Research & Public Relations Co.	jens.daugaard@tns-gallup.dk	Other: CAWI on our internetpanel Gallup Forum	National (18+) Main cities	1037	27/11/2006
Egypt	TNS Gallup	diaasaleeb@link.net	Face to face	(18+)	500	11/11/2006
Finland	TNS Sofres	mirva.vavrynen@tns-gallup.fi	Online panel	National (18+)	1320	22/11/2006
France	TNS Sofres	marc-andre.allard@tns-sofres.com	Face to face	National (18+)	990	09/11/2006
Georgia	GORBI	ngulashvili@gorbi.com	Telephone	Tbilisi (18+)	500	29/11/2006
Germany	TNS Emnid	johannes.huxoll@tns-emnid.com	Telephone	National (14+)	502	29/11/2006
Ghana *	RMS	dkithany@rms-africa.com	Face to face	National (18+)	1600	
Greece	TNS ICAP	Ero.papadopoulou@tnsicap.gr	Telephone	National (15+)	500	29/11/2006
Hong Kong	TNS Hong Kong	ellen.tops@tns-global.com	Access Panels	National (15+)	505	24/11/2006
Iceland	Capacent Gallup	asdis.ragnarsdottir@capacent.is				
India	TNS INDIA PVT. LTD.	sharmistha.das@tns-global.com	Face to face	National (18+) Jakarta and Surabaya	536	18/11/2006
Indonesia	TNS Indonesia	Muhammad.Safianto@tns-global.com	Face to face	(18+)	500	27/11/2006
Iraq *	IIACSS	Munqith_dagher@iiacss.org	Face to face	Urban (18+)	800	27/11/2006
Israel	TNS/Teleseker	Tamar.fuchs@tns-teleseker.com	Telephone	National (18+)	502	28/11/2006
Italy	Doxa	paolo.colombo@doxa.it	Face to face	National (15+)	1030	30/11/2006
Japan	NRC	nisimura@nrc.co.jp	administered	National (15+)	1236	13/11/2006
Jordan *	United International	doaa@iiacss.org	Telephone	Amman (15+)	562	29/11/2006
Korea	Gallup Korea	hhlee@gallup.co.kr	Face to face	National (19+) Albanian plus population - 93% of the	1503	20/11/2006
Kosovo (UN adm) *	BBSS Gallup International		Face to face	total (18+)	1002	24/11/2006
Luxembourg	TNS ILRES	marc.thiltgen@tns-ilres.com	Access Panel	National (15+)	512	26/11/2006
Macedonia	Brima	e.medarovska@brima-gallup.com.mk	Face to face	Urban (18+) Peninsular Malaysia,	660	20/11/2006
Malaysia	TNS Malaysia Sdn Bhd	BeeYoke.Yang@tns-global.com	Telephone	urban (18+)	1000	03/12/2006
Netherlands	TNS NIPO	Anouk.van.drunen@tns-nipo.com	CASI	National (18+)	1029	27/11/2006
Nigeria	RMS	umanuba@rms-africa.com	Face to face	national (18+)	500	22/11/2006
Norway	TNS Gallup	olefredrick.uqland@tns-gallup.no	Web	National (15+)	505	26/11/2006
Pakistan	Gallup Pakistan	fatima.idrees@gallup.com.pk	interview	National (15+)	505	26/11/2006
Peru	Datum Internacional	fatima.idrees@gallup.com.pk	Face to face	Urban (18+)	905	26/11/2006
Philippines	ARO	Gyrala@datum.com.pe	Face to face	National (18+)	1125	28/11/2006
Poland	Mareco Polska	raymund.pascua@asiaresearch.com.ph	Face to face	National (18+)	1000	28/11/2006
Portugal	TNS Euroteste	marek.fudala@mareco.pl	Face to face	Main cities	994	03/12/2006
Russia	Romir	hugo.baptista@tns-global.com	Face to face	(15+)	500	13/11/2006
Singapore	Taylor Nelson Sofres	Pratusevich.V@rmh.ru	Face to face	National (15+)	500	13/11/2006
South Africa	Markinor (Pty) Ltd	Jasmine.Yang@tns-global	Face to face	National (18+)	1634	21/11/2006
Sweden	TNS Gallup AB	maih@markinor.co.za	Telephone	National (15+)	513	06/12/2006
Switzerland	Isopublic AG	mirjamh@sigmados.com	Face to face	National (18+)	3493	21/11/2006
Thailand	TNS Thailand	susanne.vontobel@isopublic.ch	Face to face	National (15+)	506	01/12/2006
Turkey	TNS PIAR	kulchat.wuttigate@tns-global.com	Telephone	Urban (15+)	1000	28/11/2006
Ukraine	TNS Ukraine	Benqi.ozboyaci@tns-global.com	Face to face	National (18+)	2015	28/11/2006
USA	TNS (US)	alla.vlasyuk@tns-global.com.ua	Face to face	National (16+)	1200	10/11/2006
Venezuela	Sigma Dos Venezuela	Thomas.daniels@tns-global.com	Online	National (18+)	579	04/12/2006
Vietnam	TNS	romel@sigmados-international.com	Face to face	(Caracas)(18+) 4 Main cities	1000	17/11/2006
		Ralf.Matthaes@tns-global.com	Face to face	(18+)	500	21/11/2006