

Canada amongst Three Countries in the World that majority of Americans view as close ally. Great Britain seen as US's closest ally and Australia ranks third.

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As Prime Minister Stephen Harper prepares to sit down with US President Bush and the Mexican President Felipe Calderon for a summit at Montebello the recent installment of the Harris annual survey (*The Harris Poll® #78, August 7, 2007*) on US perceptions of its closest allies puts Canada in second place for the seventh consecutive year behind Great Britain.

In 2007 some 57% of Americans ranked Canada as a close ally compared to 70% for Great Britain the country most widely viewed as a close ally. Australia finished in third at 54%. Still the 57% represents a seven-point decline from the previous year. Between 2004 and 2005 there was a 16 jump in the extent to which Canada was regarded as a close ally (48% to 64%) that might have been attributed to improved image of Canada in the United States under the direction of Prime Minister Harper who was determined to repair a relationship that presumably suffered over the course of the US intervention in Iraq. Clearly the resurgence in the view of Canada as a close ally encountered some normalization. Other close allies have also fallen back after upswings in the previous year as Americans recognize that even its closest friends remain critical of continued involvement in Iraq. Still Canada fares much better in the eyes of Americans as its neighbor to the South has dropped from 6th place to 9th place since 2005 and Mexico is thirty points behind Canada in the extent to which it is viewed as a close ally.

TABLE 1

HOW AMERICANS VIEW 25 COUNTRIES -- TRENDS ON "CLOSE ALLY" SINCE 1982

"Do you feel that (READ EACH ITEM) is a close ally of the U.S., is friendly but not a close ally, is not friendly but not an enemy, or is unfriendly and is an enemy of the U.S.?"

(Percent responding "close ally")

Base: All Adults

	1982	1985	1993	1994	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Great Britain	58	62	61	56	59	63	65	66	63	80	64	74	70	74	74	70
Canada	63			61	62	73	70	69	63	73	60	57	51	48	64	57
Australia				36	36	48	43	45	42	47	43	53	45	44	61	54
Israel	33	34	26	26	27	29	31	37	31	38	37	44	43	41	47	42
Japan	35		13	14	14	21	19	23	23	26	28	32	33	30	50	38
Mexico-9 th Place				25	24	30	31	31	28	40	29	33	29	27	31	27

Table 2

HOW AMERICANS VIEW 25 COUNTRIES

"Do you feel that (READ EACH ITEM) is a close ally of the U.S., is friendly but not a close ally, is not friendly but not an enemy, or is unfriendly and is an enemy of the U.S.?"

Base: All Adults

Rank Now (Close Ally)			Close Ally	Friendly Not Close Ally	Not Friendly, Not Enemy	Unfriendly /Enemy	Not Sure/Refused	Rank in:		
								2004	2005	2006
1	Great Britain	%	70	21	6	1	3	1	1	1
2	Canada	%	57	31	9	1	2	2	2	2
3	Australia	%	54	28	10	1	7	3	3	3
4	Israel	%	42	26	19	8	5	4	4	5
5	Japan	%	38	34	14	10	4	5	5	4
6	Italy	%	35	40	16	3	7	7	7	=6
7	South Korea	%	29	25	20	20	6	8	8	=6
8	Germany	%	28	39	20	6	8	=10	9	=8
=9	Mexico	%	27	39	21	10	4	6	6	=8
=9	Norway	%	27	38	21	2	12	14	15	=11
11	Holland (Netherlands)	%	26	44	18	1	12	=10	=12	14
12	Spain	%	25	48	16	2	8	9	11	=11
13	Sweden	%	22	50	19	2	7	=12	10	=8
=14	Greece	%	20	43	24	3	10	=15	17	15
=14	France	%	20	38	27	11	4	=17	16	16
=14	Taiwan	%	20	36	27	6	11	=12	=12	13
17	India	%	18	43	21	8	9	=17	14	17
18	Brazil	%	15	39	30	3	12	=17	18	=18
19	Chile	%	12	39	27	7	14	=22	=19	20
20	South Africa	%	10	42	31	5	12	=15	=19	=18
=21	Argentina	%	8	41	29	8	14	=20	=22	22
=21	Colombia	%	8	24	33	23	12	24	=22	=23
23	Russia	%	6	33	37	17	6	=20	=19	21
24	China	%	5	25	40	23	6	25	25	=23
25	Pakistan	%	4	21	32	37	5	=22	24	25

=indicates a tie

Methodology

The Harris Poll® was conducted by telephone within the United States between July 10 and 16, 2007 among a nationwide cross section of 1,010 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race, education, number of adults, number of voice/telephone lines in the household, region and size of place were weighted where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population. However, only approximately 500 people were asked about each country

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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