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Survey Findings and Commentary by
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Executive Board Member Gallup International and
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2009 – Globally Perceived to be a Gloomy Year

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**2009 – Globally Perceived to be a Gloomy Year:
Gallup International Survey in
46 Countries Across All Continents**

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Executive Board Member of Gallup International and Chairman Gallup Pakistan

According to a survey carried out by Gallup International in 46 countries covering all parts of the world, the year 2009 is perceived as a gloomy year by more people than any year since GIA's End of Year Survey began some forty years ago.

Perceptions about a gloomy year are most widespread among populations living in the prosperous world, the G8 or the economically prosperous nations of North America, Western Europe and Japan. In contrast the emerging powers commonly known as BRIC (*Brazil, Russia, India, China*) are relatively less gloomy: the hopefuls in these nations outnumber the gloomy. The survey also shows that the Muslim world, spanning from North Africa to the Middle East and Asia, forming around one fifth of the world population expect a gloomy year. This is quite uncharacteristic of them since in previous years, the Muslim people had a tendency to expect a good forthcoming year despite adversity around them.

The Gallup International survey also found that globally the youth (*under 30 years*) are less gloomy about the New Year than their elders. Similarly the middle income homes are less gloomy than the other two ends of the household income spectrum, the poor on the one and rich on the other.

The survey was carried out in 46 countries covering both North and South America, West and East Europe, the Middle East, West, South and East Asia, Africa and Australia. The findings quoted in this analysis are statistically adjusted and weighted by this commentator so that every part of the globe is counted according to its share in the global population.

The survey which interviewed 5441 men and women in the G8 countries shows that 37 % are gloomy about the year 2009. They think 2009 will be worse than the year which has just ended. Only 29 % are hopeful expecting it to be better, while 34 % believe there will be no change, or they do not know.

As opposed to this populations in the newly emerging world economic powers, commonly known as BRIC (*Brazil, Russia, India and China—Russia being common to both G8 and BRIC*) are less gloomy about the New Year. The Hopefuls are 48 % the Gloomy: 22 % while 30 % believe there will be no change, or they do not know.

The comparable figures in the Muslim people spanning primarily parts of Africa and Asia but also in other parts of the world are: Hopeful 20 %, Gloomy 28 % and 52 % believe there will be no change.

As for Age and Income levels the global figures are the following: 38% of under 30 years are Hopeful about the New Year as opposed to only 22% of those over the age of 65 years. In terms of Income levels, men and women at the middle level of incomes in their respective countries are on the whole 7% points more Hopeful than either the Poor at the one end and the Rich at the other in their respective countries.

For more details on survey findings and statistical tables:
http://www.gallup.com.pk/scan/GIA_EoY_2008.pdf