



THE INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH POLICY RESEARCH

THE POLITICAL LEANINGS OF BRITAIN'S JEWS

APRIL 2010

About JPR

JPR, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, is a London-based independent research unit and think-tank that specializes in contemporary Jewish affairs. Formerly the Institute of Jewish Affairs, JPR has stood at the forefront of Jewish community research for several decades, and is responsible for most of the attitudinal data and analysis that exists on Jews in Britain.

Survey details

The data was gathered using an online questionnaire during the months of January and February 2010, as part of "The Israel Survey 2010: The Attitudes and Attachments of Jews in Britain." This still to be completed nationwide survey was commissioned by the Pears Foundation and conducted by JPR. Ipsos MORI advised on questionnaire development and managed the data collection process. The analysis and interpretation of results have been done exclusively by JPR. Respondents self-identified as being Jewish, living in Britain and aged 18 and over. From the total respondent base of that survey, JPR randomly selected 1,000 responses and analyzed their answers to the following question:

"Generally speaking, do you think of yourself politically as...?"

- *Labour*
- *Conservative*
- *Liberal Democrat*
- *Other*
- *Undecided*
- *I would not vote*
- *Prefer not to say"*

It is important to note that respondents were not asked which party they specifically intended to vote for in the forthcoming general election, but rather about their general political leaning.

Accompanying questions allowed researchers to analyse responses to this question in terms of variables such as: age, gender, marital status, employment status, geography, religious outlook, and synagogue membership.

Jews in Britain

There are approximately 300,000 Jews living in Britain, and they represent 0.5% of the electorate. Two-thirds live in London and the South-east. Other key centres of Jewish life are in Greater Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham.

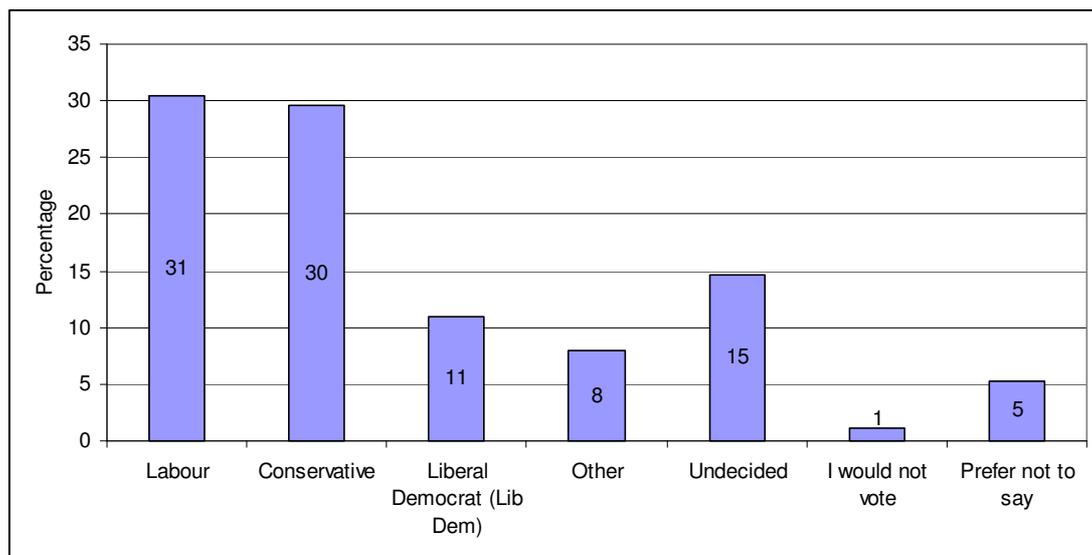
SURVEY SUMMARY

1. Among the Jewish population, leanings towards Conservative and Labour are evenly split, yet many people are undecided.
2. Younger respondents are more likely to be undecided, and less likely to support the Conservatives, than older respondents. Support for Labour does not vary with age.
3. Jewish men are considerably more likely than Jewish women to prefer the Conservatives.
4. Jews who are married are more likely to prefer the Conservative Party; single Jews are more likely to prefer Labour.
5. The self-employed are more likely to prefer the Conservatives (39% Conservative versus 29% Labour), whereas full-time employees prefer Labour (38% Labour versus 25% Conservative).
6. Jews demonstrate very different political preferences depending upon which part of the country they live in.
7. Jews with a 'Secular' outlook prefer Labour; those with a 'Religious' outlook prefer the Conservatives.
8. Political preferences among Jews vary significantly depending upon which synagogue denomination they belong to.

SURVEY FINDINGS

1. General picture: Among the Jewish population, leanings towards Conservative and Labour are evenly split, yet many people are undecided.

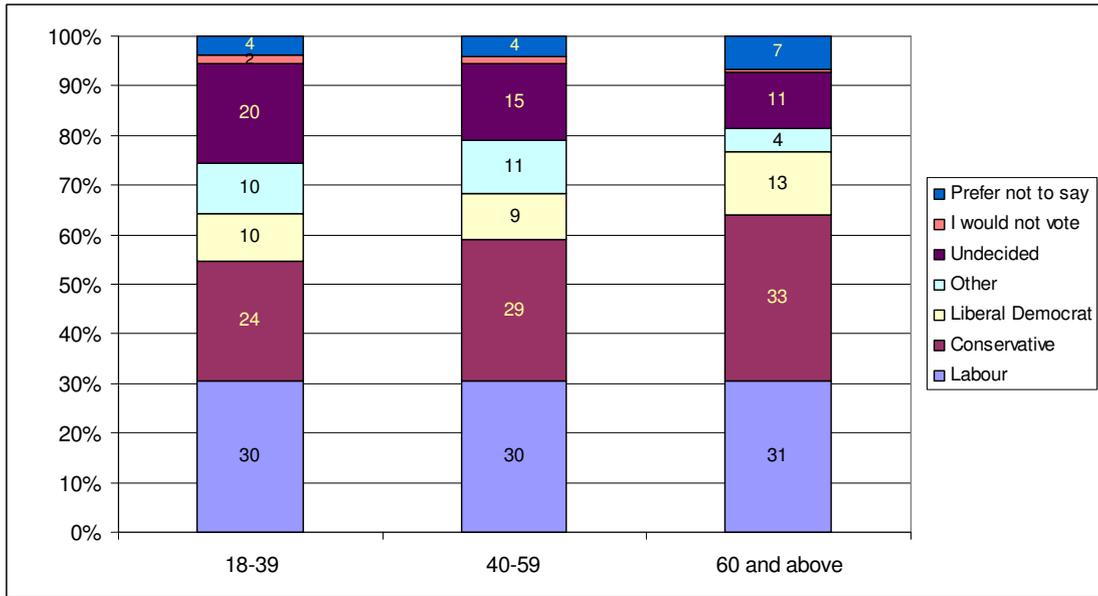
The Jewish population is evenly distributed between Labour (31%) and the Conservatives (30%). However, indecision is a significant factor: 15% of respondents sampled by JPR are politically undecided. Respondents are considerably less likely to prefer the Liberal Democrats (11%) over the two main political parties.



2. Age: Younger respondents are more likely to be undecided, and less likely to support the Conservatives, than older respondents. Support for Labour does not vary with age.

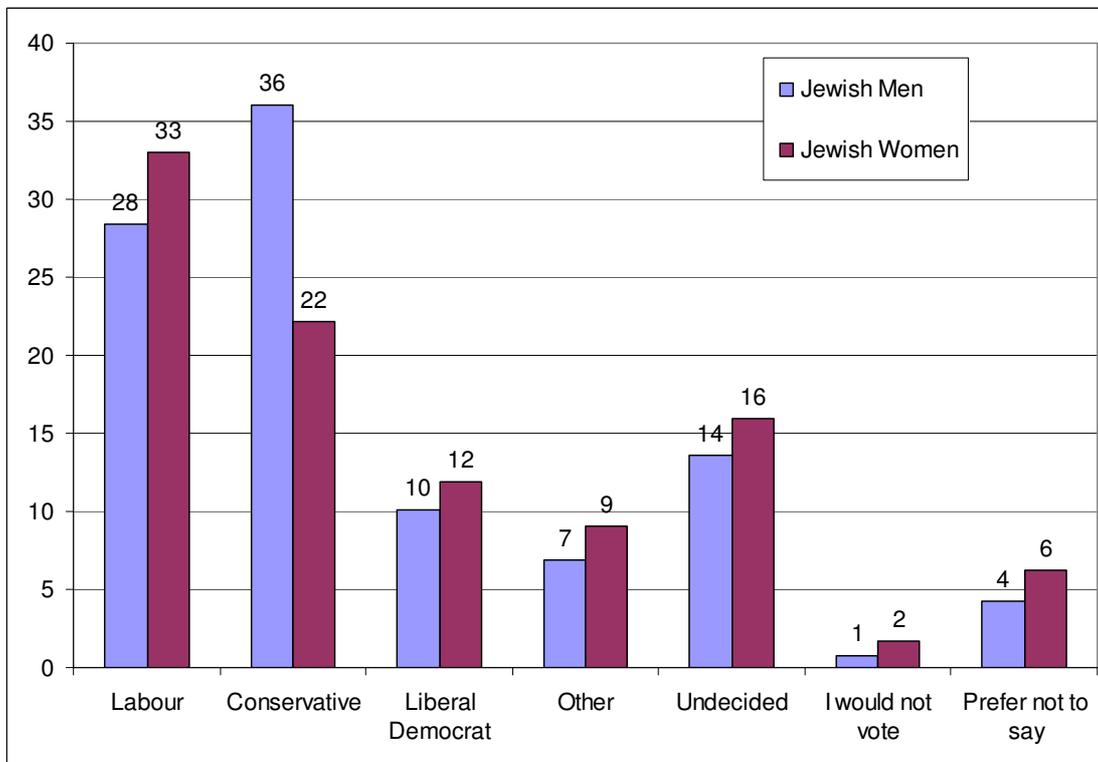
Older respondents (aged 60 and above) are more likely to support the Conservatives than younger respondents (those under 40) (33% versus 24% respectively). There is no difference in Labour support by age but the most significant factor is indecision: 20% of respondents under 40 years old are undecided, compared with 11% of those aged 60 and above.

(See overleaf)



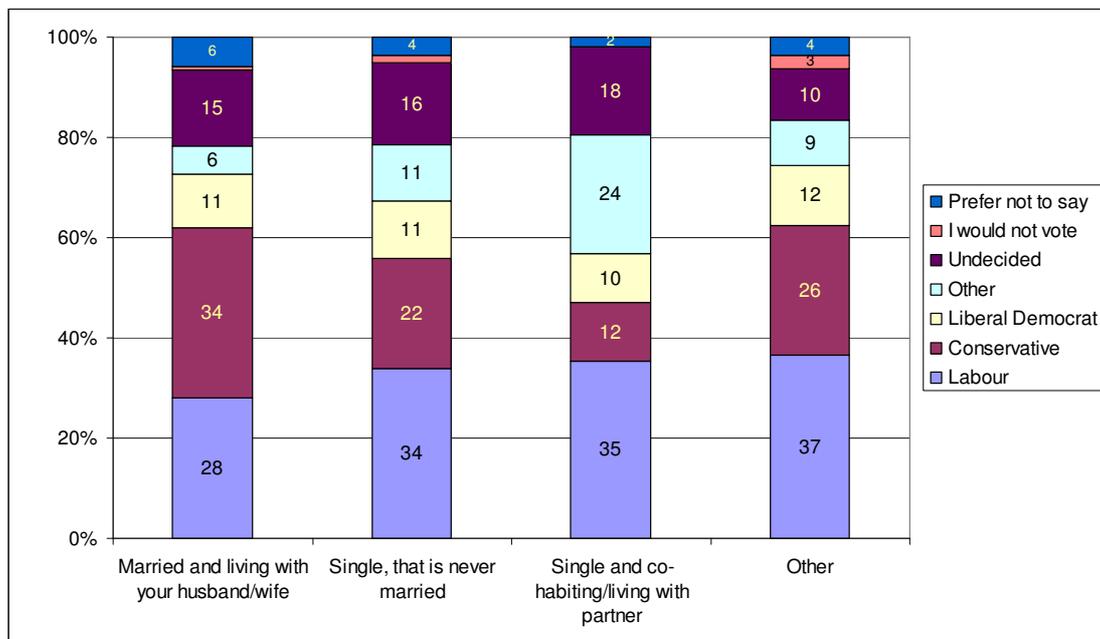
3. Gender: Jewish men are considerably more likely than Jewish women to prefer the Conservatives.

36% of Jewish men prefer the Conservative Party compared with only 22% of Jewish women. In contrast, Jewish women are more likely than Jewish men to prefer Labour. Jewish women also report slightly higher rates of support for the Liberal Democrats, and are marginally more likely to be undecided.



4. Marital status: Jews who are married are more likely to prefer the Conservative Party; single Jews are more likely to prefer Labour.

Married respondents are most likely to prefer the Conservatives (34%) compared with single (never married) respondents (22%) and cohabiting respondents (12%). Single (never married) respondents are more likely to prefer Labour (34%) compared with married respondents (28%). Almost a quarter of cohabiting respondents (24%) support the Liberal Democrats.



5. Work: The self-employed are more likely to prefer the Conservatives (39% Conservative versus 29% Labour), whereas full-time employees prefer Labour (38% Labour versus 25% Conservative).

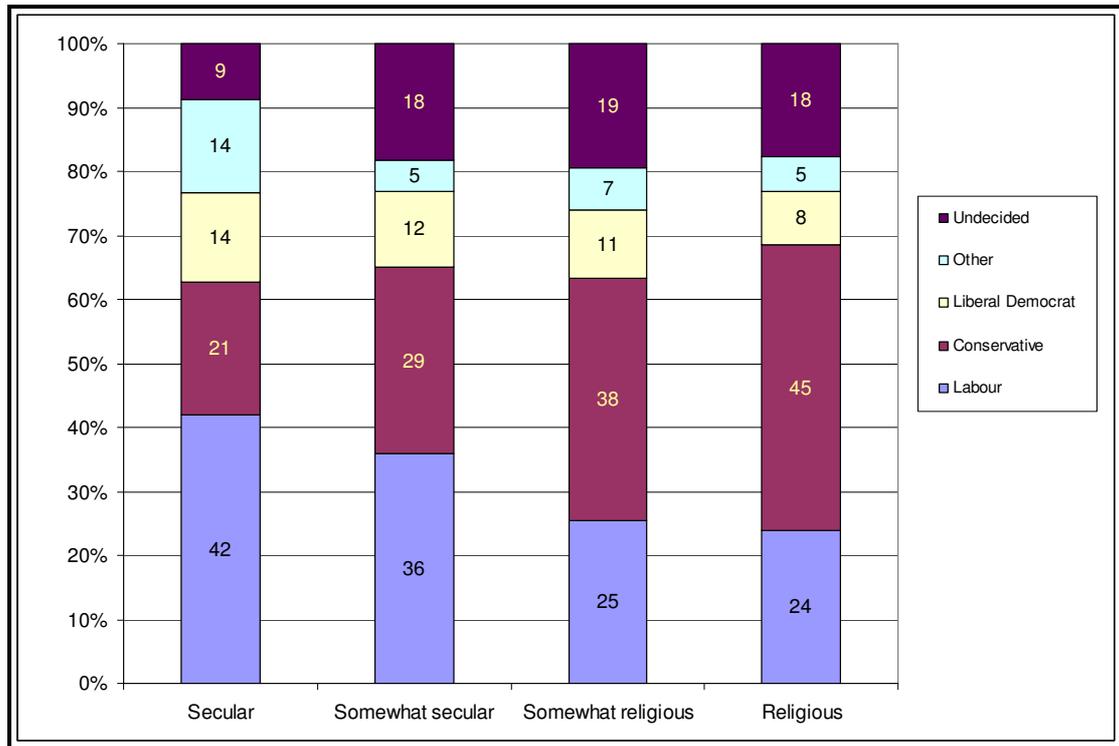
The self-employed are more likely to prefer the Conservatives than respondents who are full-time employees (39% versus 25% respectively). For Labour the opposite is true: 38% of full-time employees prefer Labour, compared with 29% of the self-employed. Jewish people who have retired are also more likely to prefer the Conservatives over Labour (37% compared with 29% respectively).

6. Geography: Jews demonstrate different political preferences depending upon which part of the country they live in.

Two-thirds of Jews in Britain live in London and the South-east. Within this area there is considerable variation in party preference. Respondents in Hertfordshire overwhelmingly prefer the Conservatives (54%), as do respondents living in West London (46%). In North and East London Labour is the preferred party (40% in favour). 22% of respondents in South London prefer the Liberal Democrats, twice the national Jewish level. In the north of the UK (including Leeds and Manchester) 35% of respondents prefer Labour, compared with 24% in favour of the Conservatives.

7. Outlook: Jews with a ‘Secular’ outlook prefer Labour; those with a ‘Religious’ outlook prefer the Conservatives.

When asked to describe their secular-religious outlook, those reporting ‘Religious’ or ‘Somewhat religious’ are more likely to prefer the Conservatives. Those reporting ‘Secular’ or ‘Somewhat secular’ are more likely to prefer Labour. Those reporting ‘Secular’ are far less likely to be undecided than all other respondents.



8. Synagogue denomination: Political preferences among Jews vary significantly depending upon which synagogue denomination they belong to.

Respondents belonging to Central Orthodox synagogues (such as the United Synagogue) are significantly more likely to support the Conservatives (48%) than respondents belonging to Reform synagogues (28%). Over a third (34%) of Reform synagogue members support Labour in contrast to only 22% of Central Orthodox synagogue members. Respondents who do not belong to any synagogue are the most likely to support Labour (40%).