

## BBC CLIMATE CHANGE POLL – February 2010

Populus interviewed a random sample of 1,001 adults aged 18+ by telephone between February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2010. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to be representative of all adults. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to [www.populus.co.uk](http://www.populus.co.uk)

### Headline comparison with November Results

**From what you know and have heard, do you think that the Earth's climate is changing and global warming taking place?**

	Nov 09	Feb 10	Change
<b>Yes</b>	83%	75%	-8%
<b>No</b>	15%	25%	+10%
<b>Net 'Yes'</b>	68%	50%	-18%

Since November there has been a swing of 9% towards people believing that global warming is not taking place.

**Still thinking about climate change and global warming, based on however much or little you know about this, please say which of the following statements comes closest to your own view, even if none of them exactly describes what you think.**

<b>All believing that 'the Earth's climate is changing &amp; global warming taking place' (83% in Nov; 75% in Feb)</b>	Nov 09	Feb 10	Change
It is now an established scientific fact that a climate change is largely man-made	50%	34%	-16%
There is a widespread theory that climate change is largely man-made but this has not yet been conclusively proved	39%	50%	+11%
Man-made climate change is environmentalist propaganda for which there is little or no real evidence	9%	14%	+5%

<b>ALL</b>	Nov 09	Feb 10	Change
Climate change is happening & is now established as largely man-made	41%	26%	-15%
Climate change is happening, but not yet proven to be largely man-made	32%	38%	+6%
Climate change is happening, but it is environmentalist propaganda that it is man-made	8%	10%	+2%
Climate change is not happening	15%	25%	+10%

Of those who do believe global warming is taking place, the number who believe it is a scientific fact that it is largely man-made has dropped from half (50%) to a third (34%). Allowing for those who believe climate change is not happening, the total number of the general public who believe it is a scientific fact that climate change is largely man-made has dropped from two-fifths (41%) to a quarter (26%).

Would you say that, in general, the risks of climate change and its possible consequences have been presented proportionately, or do you think they have been understated, or do you think they have been exaggerated?

<i>All believing that 'the Earth's climate is changing &amp; global warming taking place' (83% in Nov and 75% in Feb)</i>	Nov 09	Feb 10	Change
Proportionately	38%	35%	-3%
Understated	38%	25%	-13%
Exaggerated	22%	36%	+14%

Among those who believe the global warming is taking place, the number who believe the risks of climate change have been exaggerated has risen from one-in-five (22%) to one-in-three (36%). The number who believe the risks have been understated has dropped from 38% in November to 25% in February.

Which, if any, of these have you heard anything about in the news recently?

<i>ALL</i>	Stories about flaws or weaknesses in the science of climate change	The Copenhagen Summit	The coldest winter on record
Yes	57%	61%	83%
No	43%	39%	17%

Having heard stories about flaws or weaknesses in the science of climate change, has your view of the risk of climate change changed at all?

<i>All respondents who have heard stories of flaws or weaknesses in the science</i>	Total
I am now less convinced of the risks of climate change	11%
I am now more convinced of the risks of climate change	16%
My view on the risk of climate change has not changed	73%

More than half of people have heard stories about flaws or weaknesses in the science of climate change. Of those who have heard these stories, three-quarters say that the stories have not changed their view of the risks of climate change.

Full results of the February survey are below.

## Climate change questions – Full Results

**From what you know and have heard, do you think that the Earth’s climate is changing and global warming taking place?**

	Total	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	S. East	Mid	North	Wales & SW	Scot
<b>Yes</b>	75%	72%	77%	75%	85%	80%	73%	76%	63%	80%	76%	72%	70%	79%	75%	72%	72%	78%
<b>No</b>	25%	28%	23%	25%	15%	20%	27%	24%	37%	20%	24%	28%	30%	21%	25%	28%	28%	22%
<b>Net 'Yes'</b>	50%	44%	54%	50%	70%	60%	46%	52%	26%	60%	52%	44%	40%	58%	50%	44%	44%	56%

**Still thinking about climate change and global warming, based on however much or little you know about this, please say which of the following statements comes closest to your own view, even if none of them exactly describes what you think.**

<b><i>All believing that ‘the Earth’s climate is changing &amp; global warming taking place’ (75%)</i></b>	Total	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
It is now an established scientific fact that a climate change is largely man-made	34%	36%	33%	40%	36%	34%	29%	36%	33%
There is a widespread theory that climate change is largely man-made but this has not yet been conclusively proved	50%	47%	53%	45%	52%	48%	58%	49%	48%
Man-made climate change is environmentalist propaganda for which there is little or no real evidence	14%	16%	12%	12%	12%	16%	12%	12%	17%

<b><i>All believing that ‘the Earth’s climate is changing &amp; global warming taking place’ (75%)</i></b>	AB	C1	C2	DE	S. East	Mid	North	Wales & SW	Scot
It is now an established scientific fact that a climate change is largely man-made	41%	34%	27%	33%	37%	29%	34%	39%	34%
There is a widespread theory that climate change is largely man-made but this has not yet been conclusively proved	49%	50%	56%	46%	49%	55%	48%	49%	45%
Man-made climate change is environmentalist propaganda for which there is little or no real evidence	9%	15%	17%	17%	12%	14%	16%	9%	20%

<b>ALL</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
It is now an established scientific fact that a climate change is largely man-made	26%	26%	26%	30%	31%	27%	21%	27%	21%
There is a widespread theory that climate change is largely man-made but this has not yet been conclusively proved	38%	34%	41%	34%	44%	38%	42%	37%	30%
Man-made climate change is environmentalist propaganda for which there is little or no real evidence	10%	12%	9%	9%	10%	13%	9%	9%	11%
Climate change is not happening	25%	28%	23%	25%	15%	20%	27%	24%	37%

<b>All</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>S. East</b>	<b>Mid</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>Wales &amp; SW</b>	<b>Scot</b>
It is now an established scientific fact that a climate change is largely man-made	33%	26%	20%	23%	29%	22%	25%	28%	26%
There is a widespread theory that climate change is largely man-made but this has not yet been conclusively proved	39%	39%	40%	33%	39%	41%	35%	36%	35%
Man-made climate change is environmentalist propaganda for which there is little or no real evidence	7%	11%	12%	12%	9%	10%	12%	7%	16%
Climate change is not happening	20%	24%	28%	30%	21%	25%	28%	28%	22%

**Would you say that, in general, the risks of climate change and its possible consequences have been presented proportionately, or do you think they have been understated, or do you think they have been exaggerated?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>S. East</b>	<b>Mid</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>Wales &amp; SW</b>	<b>Scot</b>
<b>Proportionately</b>	35%	33%	36%	32%	34%	37%	43%	39%	25%	44%	32%	38%	24%	29%	42%	32%	39%	33%
<b>Understated</b>	25%	22%	27%	32%	25%	25%	24%	21%	24%	25%	27%	19%	26%	34%	20%	22%	20%	24%
<b>Exaggerated</b>	36%	42%	32%	32%	36%	35%	33%	38%	43%	28%	38%	37%	44%	32%	36%	41%	39%	34%

## Which, if any, of these have you heard anything about in the news recently?

### Stories about flaws or weaknesses in the science of climate change

	Total	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	S. East	Mid	North	Wales & SW	Scot
<b>Yes</b>	57%	62%	52%	54%	47%	58%	59%	62%	60%	67%	58%	52%	50%	63%	55%	54%	58%	51%
<b>No</b>	43%	38%	48%	46%	53%	42%	41%	38%	40%	33%	42%	48%	50%	37%	45%	46%	42%	49%

### The Copenhagen Summit

	Total	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	S. East	Mid	North	Wales & SW	Scot
<b>Yes</b>	61%	68%	55%	46%	50%	68%	64%	66%	67%	73%	66%	53%	50%	70%	60%	53%	65%	56%
<b>No</b>	39%	32%	45%	54%	50%	32%	36%	34%	33%	27%	34%	47%	50%	30%	40%	47%	35%	44%

### The coldest winter on record

	Total	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	S. East	Mid	North	Wales & SW	Scot
<b>Yes</b>	83%	81%	86%	87%	86%	86%	86%	79%	78%	87%	83%	82%	80%	84%	87%	82%	78%	85%
<b>No</b>	17%	19%	14%	13%	14%	14%	14%	21%	22%	13%	17%	18%	20%	16%	13%	18%	22%	15%

## Having heard stories about flaws or weaknesses in the science of climate change, has your view of the risk of climate change changed at all?

<b><i>All respondents who have heard stories of flaws or weaknesses in the science (57%)</i></b>	Total	M	F	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
I am now less convinced of the risks of climate change	11%	12%	10%	12%	8%	9%	15%	9%	12%
I am now more convinced of the risks of climate change	16%	12%	21%	17%	18%	16%	14%	16%	17%
My view on the risk of climate change has not changed	73%	76%	69%	71%	74%	75%	70%	75%	71%

<b><i>All respondents who have heard stories of flaws or weaknesses in the science (57%)</i></b>	AB	C1	C2	DE	S. East	Mid	North	Wales & SW	Scot
I am now less convinced of the risks of climate change	12%	9%	10%	12%	7%	13%	14%	10%	10%
I am now more convinced of the risks of climate change	10%	16%	22%	21%	17%	19%	16%	11%	18%
My view on the risk of climate change has not changed	77%	75%	68%	67%	76%	69%	69%	78%	71%