

The Gallup Poll

Nixon's Popularity Hits Low of 44 Pct.

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—President Nixon's popularity is at the lowest ebb to date, having declined 24 percentage points from a high in late January following the Vietnam peace settlement.

The rate of decline, however, has leveled off, with the latest figure—44 per cent approval—representing virtually no change from the previous measurement of 45 per cent recorded a week earlier.

Despite Mr. Nixon's plummeting popularity over the last three and one-half months, a large majority of rank-and-file Republicans (three out of every four) currently give the President a vote of confidence. In addition, his decline in approval since January has been less pronounced among Republicans than among Democrats or independents.

In sharp contrast to the views of Republicans, only one Democrat in every four at present approves of the way the President is handling his job.

The table below shows the change in Mr. Nixon's popularity between last January and today—nationally and on the basis of party affiliation:

	Approve Late Jan.	Approve Latest	Point Change
NATIONWIDE	68%	44%	-24
Republicans	89	73	-16
Democrats	51	27	-24
Independents	72	43	-29

As in previous measurements, approval of his performance is lowest in the

East—the most Democratic region of the nation. Also consistent with earlier findings, the South is the region where he receives his greatest vote of confidence, as seen in the following table:

	Approve Late Jan.	Approve Latest	Point Change
East	64%	38%	-26
Midwest	65	46	-19
South	73	51	-22
West	64	41	-23

In terms of educational background, the most precipitous drop in approval since January has been recorded among persons whose education has been limited to grade school, as seen in the table below:

	Approve Late Jan.	Approve Latest	Point Change
Col. background	64%	51%	-13
High school	70	45	-25
Grade school	63	36	-27

Here is the question asked in the current survey, as in all previous surveys on the subject since the late 1930s.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?"

Following is the trend since the beginning of the current year:

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
May 11-14	44%	45%	11%
May 4-7	45	42	13
April 27-30	48	40	12
April 6-9	54	36	10
Mar. 30-Apr. 2	59	32	9
Feb. 16-9	65	25	10
Jan. 26-29	68	25	7
Jan. 12-15	51	37	12

The findings reported today are based on interviews with a total of 1,548 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period May 11-14.