

Bermuda Omnibus Survey

Second Quarter 2004 - Commissioned Research

Final Results for Bermuda Government

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|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Field Dates: | June 25-29, 2004 |
| Population: | Bermuda Residents (18+) |
| Sample: | 401 |
| Sampling Error: | +/-4.9% (19 in 20 Samples) |

All results are expressed as a percentage

The Bermuda Omnibus Survey

Second Quarter 2004

Summary Report on the Bermuda Government's Commissioned Research

The following are summary results for the Bermuda Government's commissioned questions from the latest *Bermuda Omnibus Survey*, a syndicated quarterly survey of Bermuda residents. The survey consisted of telephone interviews with a representative sample of 401 Bermuda residents conducted between June 25 and 29, 2004. A sample of this size drawn from the population provides results accurate to within plus or minus 4.9 percent in 19 out of 20 samples.

Support for Bermuda's Independence

Opposition to Bermuda's independence remains high, and there is mixed opinion on whether or not Bermuda meets conditions for being an independent nation.

- As noted earlier this year, residents do not believe Bermuda should become independent of Britain. In fact, nearly seven in ten residents either strongly (45%, down 3 points over last quarter) or generally (23%, up 7 points) oppose an independent Bermuda. Conversely, two in ten residents generally (13%, down 1 point) or strongly (8%, down 5 points) support this idea. There continues to be a notable difference in opinion on this topic by race, with white residents being significantly more likely than black residents to oppose independence. That being said, opposition has grown among black residents, and more than half of black residents now express some level of opposition towards an independent Bermuda. (Table 8)
- When asked if Bermuda meets local and international conditions for being an independent nation, more than one-half (52%) of residents do not believe so, while just three in ten (29%) consider conditions are met. An additional two in ten (19%) residents did not provide an opinion on the matter. There is little notable difference of opinion across the population, although those younger than 55 years of age are marginally more likely than older residents to say the Island meets those conditions. As might have been expected, residents who support independence are more likely than those who oppose it to believe Bermuda meets conditions to become an independent nation. (Table 10G)

Information on Bermuda's Independence

While residents consider themselves informed on the issue of Bermuda's independence, there is strong interest for information on the impact of an independent Bermuda.

- The majority of residents consider themselves either generally (51%) or very well (19%) informed on the issue of Bermuda's independence. This is most notably the case of higher income residents, those 35 years or older, and white residents. Conversely, nearly three in ten residents believe they are not very (21%) or not at all (7%) informed on this issue. It is also interesting to note that the level of perceived knowledge about Bermuda's independence remains consistent regardless of the level of support for the cause. (Table 9G)

- Although residents perceive they are generally informed on the issue of Bermuda's independence, there is strong interest in learning more about the impact of independence on Bermuda. In fact, eight in ten residents are very (47%) or somewhat (33%) interested in receiving additional information, while less than two in ten residents are not very (8%) or not at all (10%) interested. Few (3%) did not provide an opinion. Interest in learning more is highest among those with household incomes of at least \$50k, residents 35 years or older, and Bermudians. While the level of interest in additional information is generally high across the population, it is worth noting that those who support an independent Bermuda express a greater level of interest than those who oppose the idea in learning more about the impact of an independent Bermuda. (Table 11G)

Media and government are considered the most credible sources of information on Bermuda's independence.

- For information on independence, media (30%) and government in general (21%) were considered most credible sources of information, distantly followed by public meetings or forums (7%) and the United Bermuda Party (6%). Less than five percent of Bermuda residents each mentioned other sources, including history or the experience of other countries (4%), personal knowledge or research (4%), literature or pamphlets (3%), and independent groups or NGOs (3%). Finally, few residents each mentioned international organizations, the Progressive Labour Party, the Bermuda International Business Association, the Internet, friends, family or colleagues, economists or the Chamber of Commerce. Nearly one-third of residents (23%) did not provide an opinion. Across the population, media is considered most credible among younger residents and non-Bermudians. (Table 12G)