



General Election 2010

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No single party won an overall majority at the 2010 General Election, for the first time in the UK since February 1974. The Conservatives won the most seats, 306, a net change of 96 compared with notional 2005 general election results. Labour were down by 90 seats, leaving them with 258, while the Liberal Democrat total of 57 was five fewer than 2005.

General Election 2010 provides detailed analysis of the results of the 2010 General Election. The data for votes cast and electorates agree with the official results published by the Electoral Commission. This Research Paper replaces the analysis published on 8 July 2010 which used provisional data.

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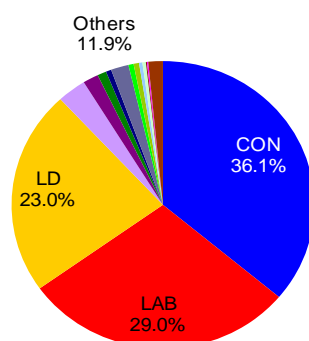
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Summary

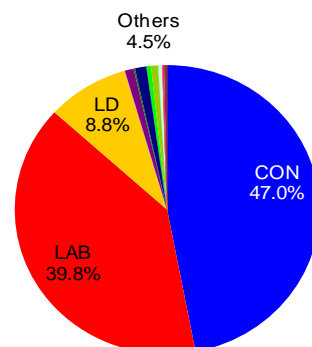
A UK General Election was held on 6 May 2010.¹

- No single party won an overall majority of the 650 House of Commons seats.
- The Conservatives won 306 seats, Labour won 258 and the Liberal Democrats 57.
- The Conservatives polled 10.7 million votes, 36.1% of the total. This compares with 32.4% of votes in the previous General Election in 2005.
- Labour took 8.6 million votes, 1 million fewer than in 2005. In 2010 their vote share was 29.0%, 6.2% points down on 2005, and 10.7% points lower than in 2001.
- The Liberal Democrats' 6.8 million votes, 23.0% of the total, was 1.0% points higher than their 22.0% share in 2005.
- Compared with the (notional) results of the 2005 election, Labour lost 94 seats; the Conservatives lost 4 seats; the Liberal Democrats lost 13 seats. The Conservatives gained 100 seats, Labour gained 4 seats and Liberal Democrats gained 8 seats. The effect of these gains and losses is a net change for the three main parties:
 - Conservative +96
 - Labour -90
 - Liberal Democrats -5
- Plaid Cymru's share of the vote fell relative to 2005. They won three seats, up one on the notional 2005 results. The SNP share of the vote rose slightly and they won six seats, no change on 2005.
- The Democratic Unionists won eight of the 18 seats in Northern Ireland, one fewer than in 2005. Sinn Féin polled more votes in Northern Ireland than any other party and won five seats, the same as in 2005. The SDLP won three seats, unchanged from 2005. The Ulster Conservatives and Unionists have no MPs, having lost the seat held by the UUP before the agreement with the Conservatives.
- Caroline Lucas won Brighton Pavilion the first ever seat for the Green Party; and Naomi Long won Belfast East, the first seat to be won by the Alliance Party at a General Election.
- The Speaker, John Bercow, won in Buckingham and Lady Sylvia Hermon was elected as an Independent in North Down in Northern Ireland.
- Turnout was 65.1%, 3.7% points higher than in 2005.

Share of the vote by party, UK



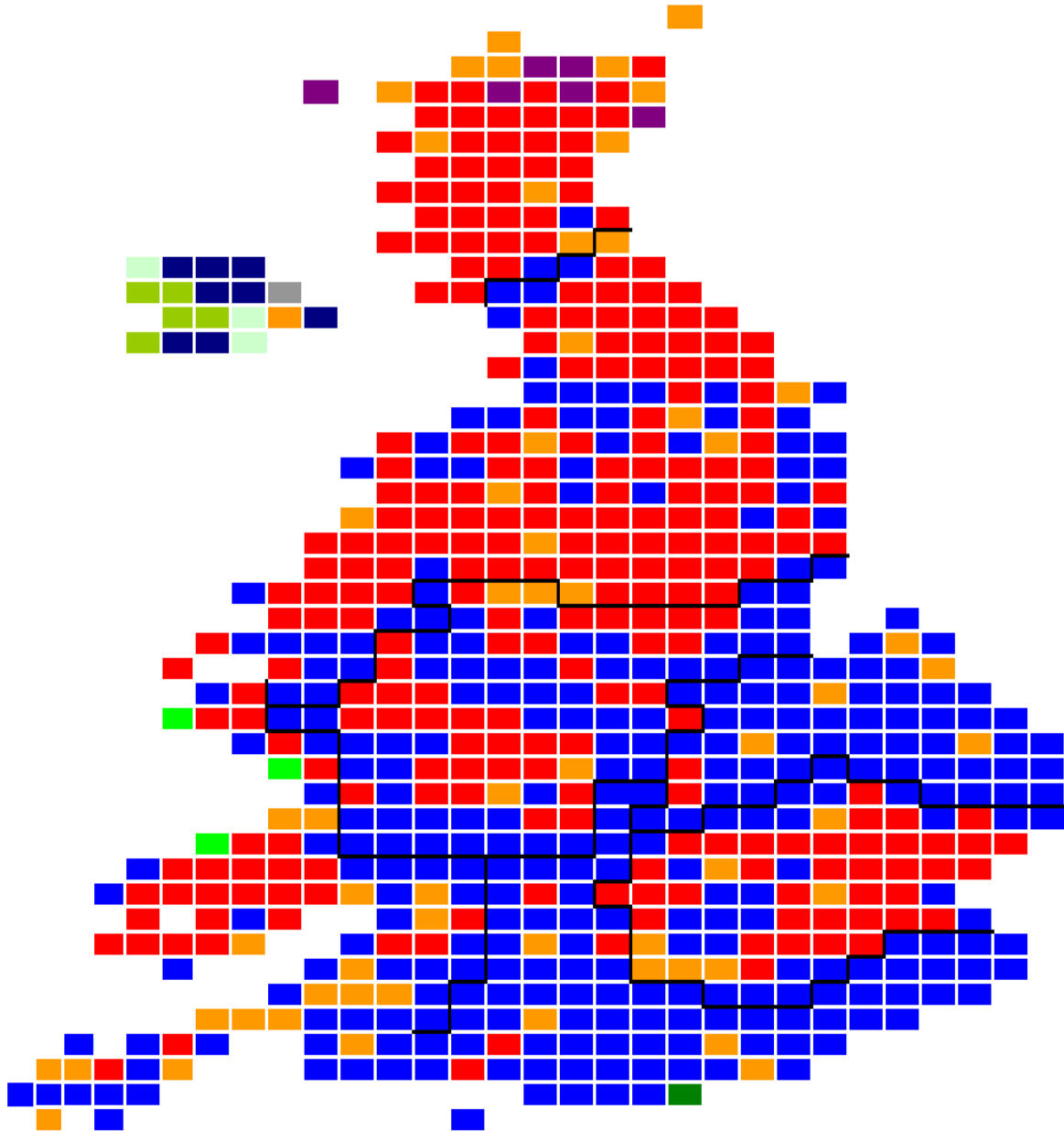
Share of the seats won by party, UK



¹ except in Thirsk and Malton constituency where it was postponed to 27 May, due to the death of the UKIP candidate during the campaign

2010 General Election seat winners: equal sized constituencies

In the map below all 650 constituencies in the UK are shown as equal size. This is an attempt to overcome the problem of disproportionate weighting of constituencies in other maps. Labour constituencies, for example, tend to be urban and smaller in area than rural Conservative areas and a map with equal sized areas provides an alternative presentation which is not affected by these factors.



Each rectangle represents one constituency, coloured according to the winning party. Black lines show Government Office Region boundaries.

1 Introduction

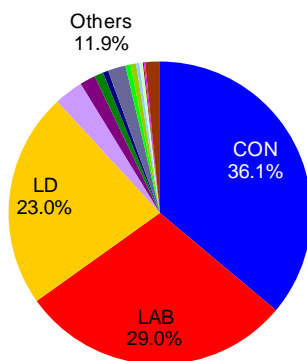
No single party won an overall majority in 2010, for the first time in a UK general election since February 1974. The Conservatives won the most seats, 306, 96 more than in a notional 2005 general election on the new constituency boundaries. Labour lost 90 seats, leaving them with 258, while the Liberal Democrats were down five on 57. However, the pattern was uneven: all three major parties both gained and lost seats.

The Conservatives won 36.1% of the vote, up by 3.7% points and a higher share of the vote than Labour won to secure an overall majority in 2005. Although they lost seats and underperformed on their opinion poll position in the lead up to the election, the Liberal Democrat share of the vote was up 1.0% points on 2005 to 23.0%.

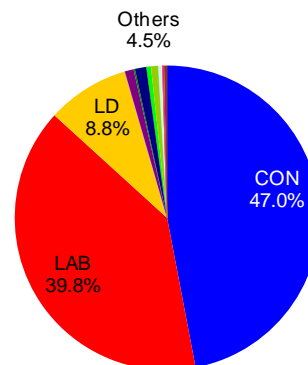
Between them the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats won 59.1% of the popular vote, the largest share for a subsequent Government since World War II.

Labour won 29.0% of the vote, their lowest since 1983 and down 6.2% points compared with 2005. 35% of voters voted for parties other than Labour and the Conservatives, the highest since 1918.

Share of the vote by party, UK



Share of the seats won by party, UK



The swing from Labour to the Conservatives was 4.9%. However, there was considerable variation between seats. Some top Conservative targets did not change hands, whereas some requiring much larger swings than the national average did.

29.7 million people cast valid votes, a turnout of 65.1%, 3.7% points more than in 2005.

The Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition leaves the DUP the second largest opposition party, with 8 MPs, though their leader, Peter Robinson, lost his seat. The Scottish National Party were unchanged on six seats while Plaid Cymru were up one on their notional 2005 position with three seats.

The Green Party and the Alliance Party won their first House of Commons seats. The BNP and UKIP both increased their shares of the vote but did not come close to winning a seat.

Based on the 2010 result and uniform national swings between Labour and the Conservatives the results of the next general election would change to a Conservative or Labour majority/largest party as follows:

- **Conservative majority:** the Conservatives would need a swing from Labour of about **2% points**
- **Labour majority:** to win an absolute majority, Labour would require a swing from the Conservatives of around **5% points**
- **Labour largest party in House of Commons:** Labour would need a swing from the Conservatives of around **2% points**

Following the 2010 election the safest seat in percentage terms is Liverpool Walton, held by new Labour MP Steve Rotheram with a majority of 57.7%. The largest majority in terms of votes is 27,826 for Labour's Stephen Timms in East Ham.

Of the 200 safest seats, 106 are held by the Conservatives, 83 by Labour, four by the Liberal Democrats and seven by other parties.

The seat with the smallest majority – four votes – is Fermanagh and South Tyrone, held by Michelle Gildernew for Sinn Fein. Labour's Glenda Jackson has the next smallest majority – 42 votes or 0.1% – in Hampstead and Kilburn.

Of the 200 seats with the smallest majorities, the Conservatives hold 83, Labour 80, the Liberal Democrats 27, and other parties 10.

The Conservatives were second in 79 of the 200 most marginal seats, Labour were second in 73 seats, the Liberal Democrats in 40, and other parties in eight.

4 Seats changing hands

117 seats changed hands compared with notional 2005 General Election results, 18.0% of seats contested. The Conservatives gained 100 and lost 4, a net increase of 96; Labour lost 94 seats and gained 4, a net decrease of 90 seats; the Liberal Democrats gained 8 and lost 13, a net decrease of 5.

In Scotland, no seats changed hands, with the exception of Glasgow North East which was the former House of Commons Speaker's seat in 2005 and was won by Labour in 2010. In Wales the Conservatives won five additional seats, four from Labour and one from the Liberal Democrats. Two seats changed hands in Northern Ireland; the Alliance Party won their first House of Commons seat and the former UUP MP Lady Sylvia Hermon was elected as an Independent. The Green Party gained its first House of Commons seat by winning Brighton Pavilion from Labour.

Seat gains and losses: 2005-2010

	2005		Gains	Losses	Net	Seats 2010
	Actual	Notional				
Conservative	198	210	100	4	+96	306
Labour	355	348	4	94	-90	258
Liberal Democrat	62	62	8	13	-5	57
Democratic Unionist Party	9	9	0	1	-1	8
Scottish National Party	6	6	0	0	0	6
Sinn Fein	5	5	0	0	0	5
Plaid Cymru	3	2	1	0	+1	3
SDLP	3	3	0	0	0	3
Alliance	0	0	1	0	+1	1
Green	0	0	1	0	+1	1
Independent	1	1	1	1	0	1
Speaker	1	1	1	1	0	1
ICHC	1	1	0	1	-1	0
Respect	1	1	0	1	-1	0
UUP/UCU	1	1	0	1	-1	0
All	646	650	117	117	0	650

Based on notional 2005 results for new constituencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Seat gains and losses by region: 2005-2010



















































	Gains				Losses				Net			
	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	OTH	CON	LAB	LD	OTH
North East	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	+1	-2	+1	-
North West	12	-	1	-	-	13	-	-	+12	-13	+1	-
Yorkshire & Humberside	10	-	1	-	-	9	2	-	+10	-9	-1	-
East Midlands	12	1	-	-	-	12	1	-	+12	-11	-1	-
West Midlands	16	-	1	-	1	14	1	1	+15	-14	-	-1
Eastern	10	-	1	-	-	11	-	-	+10	-11	+1	-
London	7	1	1	-	-	7	1	1	+7	-6	-	-1
South East	15	-	1	2	2	13	3	-	+13	-13	-2	+2
South West	12	-	1	-	1	8	4	-	+11	-8	-3	-
Wales	5	1	-	1	-	5	1	1	+5	-4	-1	-
Scotland	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	+1	-	-1
Northern Ireland	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
UK total	100	4	8	5	4	94	13	6	+96	-90	-5	-1

Based on notional 2005 results for new constituencies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

4.1 Seat changing hands by winning party: Great Britain

Conservative Gains		(100)			
From Labour		(87)			
■	■	Aberconwy	■	■	Hove
■	■	Amber Valley	■	■	Ipswich
■	■	Basildon South & Thurrock East	■	■	Keighley
■	■	Battersea	■	■	Kingswood
■	■	Bedford	■	■	Lancaster & Fleetwood
■	■	Blackpool North & Cleveleys	■	■	Leicestershire North West
■	■	Brentford & Isleworth	■	■	Lincoln
■	■	Brigg & Goole	■	■	Loughborough
■	■	Brighton Kemptown	■	■	Milton Keynes North
■	■	Bristol North West	■	■	Milton Keynes South
■	■	Broxtowe	■	■	Morecambe & Lunesdale
■	■	Burton	■	■	Northampton North
■	■	Bury North	■	■	Northampton South
■	■	Calder Valley	■	■	Norwich North
■	■	Cannock Chase	■	■	Nuneaton
■	■	Cardiff North	■	■	Pendle
■	■	Carlisle	■	■	Plymouth Sutton & Devonport
■	■	Carmarthen West & Pembrokeshire South	■	■	Portsmouth North
■	■	Chatham & Aylesford	■	■	Pudsey
■	■	Chester, City of	■	■	Reading West
■	■	Cleethorpes	■	■	Redditch
■	■	Colne Valley	■	■	Rossendale & Darwen
■	■	Corby	■	■	Rugby
■	■	Crawley	■	■	Sherwood
■	■	Crewe & Nantwich	■	■	South Ribble
■	■	Croydon Central	■	■	Stafford
■	■	Dartford	■	■	Stevenage
■	■	Derbyshire South	■	■	Stockton South
■	■	Dewsbury	■	■	Stourbridge
■	■	Dorset South	■	■	Stroud
■	■	Dover	■	■	Swindon North
■	■	Dudley South	■	■	Swindon South
■	■	Ealing Central & Acton	■	■	Tamworth
■	■	Elmet & Rothwell	■	■	Thurrock
■	■	Erewash	■	■	Vale Of Glamorgan
■	■	Gillingham & Rainham	■	■	Warrington South
■	■	Gloucester	■	■	Warwick & Leamington
■	■	Great Yarmouth	■	■	Warwickshire North
■	■	Halesowen & Rowley Regis	■	■	Watford
■	■	Harlow	■	■	Waveney
■	■	Harrow East	■	■	Weaver Vale
■	■	Hastings & Rye	■	■	Wolverhampton South West
■	■	Hendon	■	■	Worcester
■	■	High Peak			















































Seats changing hands by winning party: Great Britain (contd)

	Conservative Gains	(100)
	From Liberal Democrat	(12)
		Camborne & Redruth
		Cornwall South East
		Harrogate & Knaresborough
		Hereford & Herefordshire South
		Montgomeryshire
		Newton Abbot
		Oxford West & Abingdon
		Richmond Park
		Romsey & Southampton North
		Truro & Falmouth
		Winchester
		York Outer
	From ICHC	(1)
		Wyre Forest
	Labour Gains	(4)
	From Liberal Democrat	(1)
		Chesterfield
	From Independent	(1)
		Blaenau Gwent
	From Speaker	(1)
		Glasgow North East
	From Respect	(1)
		Bethnal Green & Bow
	Liberal Democrat Gains	(8)
	From Labour	(5)
		Bradford East
		Brent Central
		Burnley
		Norwich South
		Redcar
	From Conservative	(3)
		Eastbourne
		Solihull
		Wells
	Plaid Cymru Gains	(1)
	From Labour	(1)
		Arfon
	Green Gains	(1)
	From Labour	(1)
		Brighton Pavilion
	Speaker Gain	(1)
	From Conservative	(1)
		Buckingham





4.2 Seats changing hands by losing party: Great Britain

Labour losses		(94)		
	To Conservative	(87)		
		Aberconwy		
		Amber Valley		
		Basildon South & Thurrock East		
		Battersea		
		Bedford		
		Blackpool North & Cleveleys		
		Brentford & Isleworth		
		Brigg & Goole		
		Brighton Kemptown		
		Bristol North West		
		Broxtowe		
		Burton		
		Bury North		
		Calder Valley		
		Cannock Chase		
		Cardiff North		
		Carlisle		
		Carmarthen West & Pembrokeshire South		
		Chatham & Aylesford		
		Chester, City of		
		Cleethorpes		
		Colne Valley		
		Corby		
		Crawley		
		Crewe & Nantwich		
		Croydon Central		
		Dartford		
		Derbyshire South		
		Dewsbury		
		Dorset South		
		Dover		
		Dudley South		
		Ealing Central & Acton		
		Elmet & Rothwell		
		Erewash		
		Gillingham & Rainham		
		Gloucester		
		Great Yarmouth		
		Halesowen & Rowley Regis		
		Harlow		
		Harrow East		
		Hastings & Rye		
		Hendon		
		High Peak		
	To Liberal Democrats	(5)		
		Bradford East		
		Brent Central		
		Burnley		
		Norwich South		
		Redcar		

Seats changing hands by losing party: Great Britain (contd)

	Labour losses	(94)
	To Green	(1)
		Brighton Pavilion
	To Plaid Cymru	(1)
		Arfon
	Liberal Democrat losses	(13)
	To Conservative	(12)
		Camborne & Redruth
		Cornwall South East
		Harrogate & Knaresborough
		Hereford & Herefordshire South
		Montgomeryshire
		Newton Abbot
		Oxford West & Abingdon
		Richmond Park
		Romsey & Southampton North
		Truro & Falmouth
		Winchester
		York Outer
	To Labour	(1)
		Chesterfield
	Conservative losses	(4)
	To Liberal Democrats	(3)
		Eastbourne
		Solihull
		Wells
	To Speaker	(1)
		Buckingham
	Ind Community & Health Concern (IHC) losses	
	To Conservative	(1)
		Wyre Forest
	Respect losses	
	To Labour	(1)
		Bethnal Green & Bow
	Independent losses	
	To Labour	(1)
		Blaenau Gwent
	Speaker loss	
	To Labour	(1)
		Glasgow NE

4.3 Seats changing hands: Northern Ireland

	DUP losses	(1)
	To Alliance	(1)
	Belfast East	
	UCU losses	(1)
	To Independent	(1)
	North Down	
	Alliance Party Gains	(1)
	From DUP	(1)
	Belfast East	
	Independent Gains	(1)
	From UCU	(1)
	North Down	

5 Who voted for which party?

There are no breakdowns of votes cast by characteristics of voters. Figures are made public for the total number of votes cast for each candidate by constituency only. Opinion surveys can, however, give an idea of how party support varies between different groups. Data below are from Ipsos MORI's aggregate analysis of polls undertaken before polling day. These are based on around 6,000 individual respondents who said they were absolutely certain to vote, adjusted to match actual results.

These figures show a Conservative lead over Labour across all groups, with the exception of Social Class DE (particularly women in this group), men aged under 25, women aged 25-34, and those living in social rented housing. The Conservatives vote share increased strongly among those aged 25 to 44 relative to 2005. Further separate analysis is becoming available from the *British Election Study* funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.²

5.1 Summary table

Voting by social characteristics: MORI estimates

	2010				% point change 2005-2010			2010 % turnout
	CON	LAB	LD	Other	CON	LAB	LD	
Gender:								
Men	38	28	22	12	4	-6	0	66%
Women	36	31	26	8	4	-7	3	64%
Age:								
18-24	30	31	30	9	2	-7	4	44%
25-34	35	30	29	7	10	-8	2	55%
35-44	34	31	26	9	7	-10	3	66%
45-54	34	28	26	12	3	-7	1	69%
55-64	38	28	23	12	-1	-3	1	73%
65+	44	31	16	9	3	-4	-2	76%
Social class:								
AB	39	26	29	7	2	-2	0	76%
C1	39	28	24	9	2	-4	1	66%
C2	37	29	22	12	4	-11	3	58%
DE	31	40	17	12	6	-8	-1	57%
Housing tenure:								
Owned	45	24	21	11	1	-5	1	74%
Mortgaged	36	29	26	9	5	-7	1	66%
Social renter	24	47	19	11	8	-8	0	55%
Private renter	35	29	27	9	8	-7	-1	55%
Men by age:								
18-24	29	34	27	10	-4	0	2	50%
25-34	42	23	30	6	13	-10	3	56%
35-54	36	28	23	13	5	-8	1	67%
55+	41	29	16	14	1	-4	-4	76%
Women by age:								
18-24	30	28	34	9	8	-15	8	39%
25-34	27	38	27	8	6	-5	-1	54%
35-54	33	31	29	8	6	-9	4	67%
55+	42	30	21	7	1	-4	1	73%
Men by class:								
AB	44	23	27	7	7	-4	-1	76%
C1	37	30	24	10	-2	1	2	67%
C2	40	28	22	10	8	-11	4	58%
DE	33	33	19	15	9	-14	2	59%
Women by class:								
AB	34	29	31	6	-2	0	2	75%
C1	39	28	25	8	5	-7	2	66%
C2	41	25	25	9	7	-15	5	58%
DE	29	45	19	7	4	-4	1	56%
All:	37	30	24	10	4	-6	1	65%

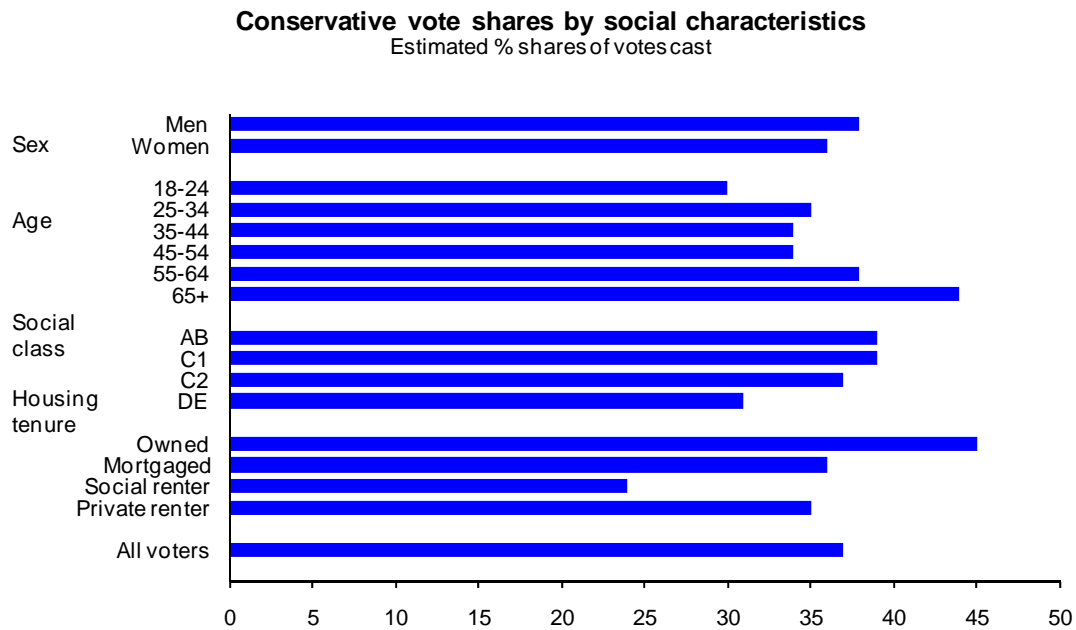
Source: MORI *Final Aggregate Analysis* <http://www.ipsos-mori.com>

Base: 10,211 GB adults aged 18+ (of which 5,927 were "absolutely certain to vote" or said they had already voted), interviewed 19 March-5 May 2010)

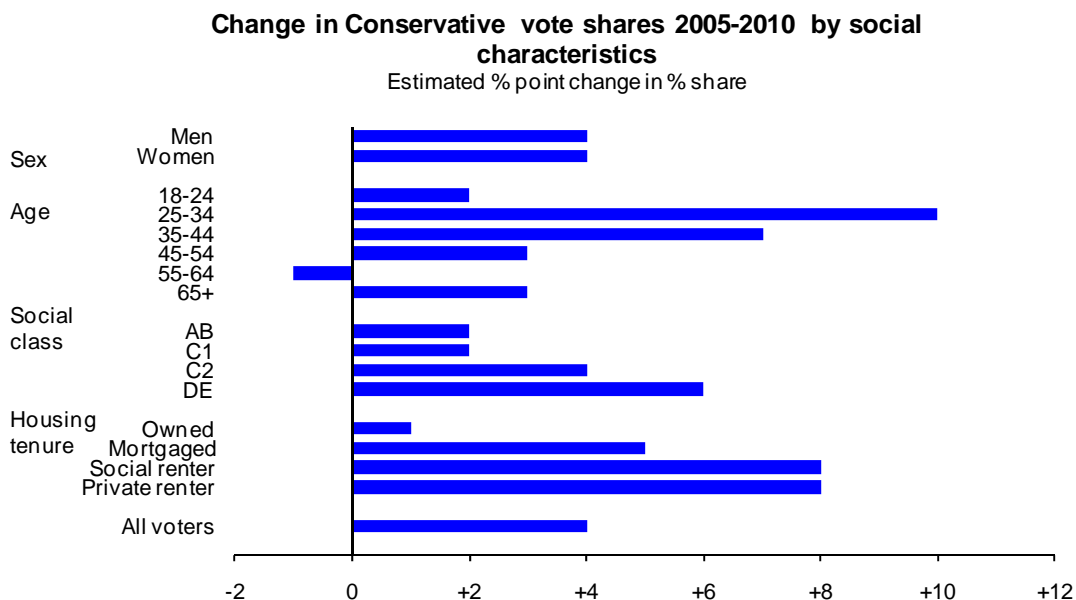
² <http://www.bes2009-10.org/>

5.2 Conservative

The charts below show Conservative performance in 2010 by social characteristics, based on Ipsos MORI estimates:



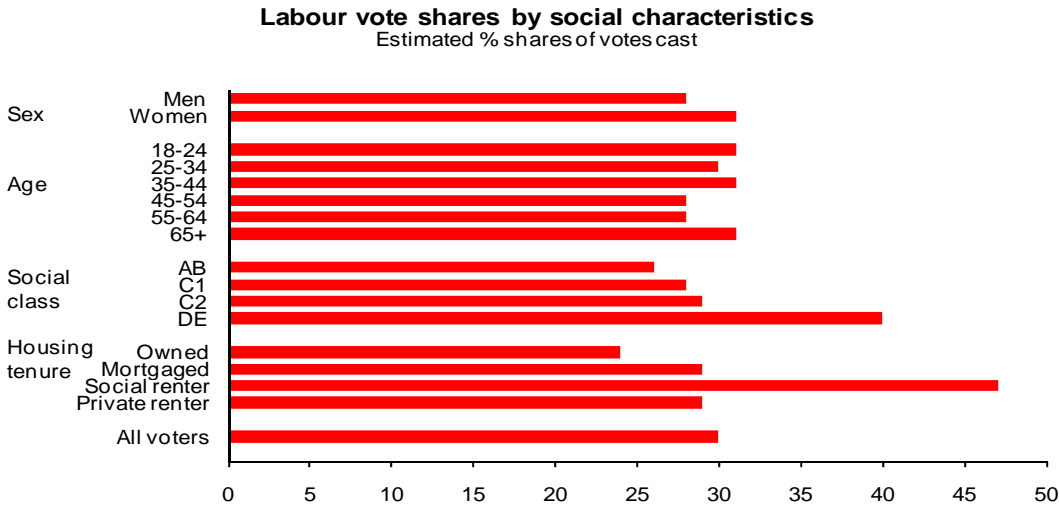
- The Conservatives won 38% of the vote among men, compared with 36% among women.
- Conservative support was higher in older age groups, higher social classes and among those who own their homes outright.
- Conservative support is weakest among those in social rented homes and for men aged 18-24 and women aged 25-34.



- The Conservatives were successful in increasing their vote share across almost all social groups, especially amongst 25 to 34 year olds.
- The increase in support for the Conservatives was also relatively large among social and private renters and those in the lowest social classes.

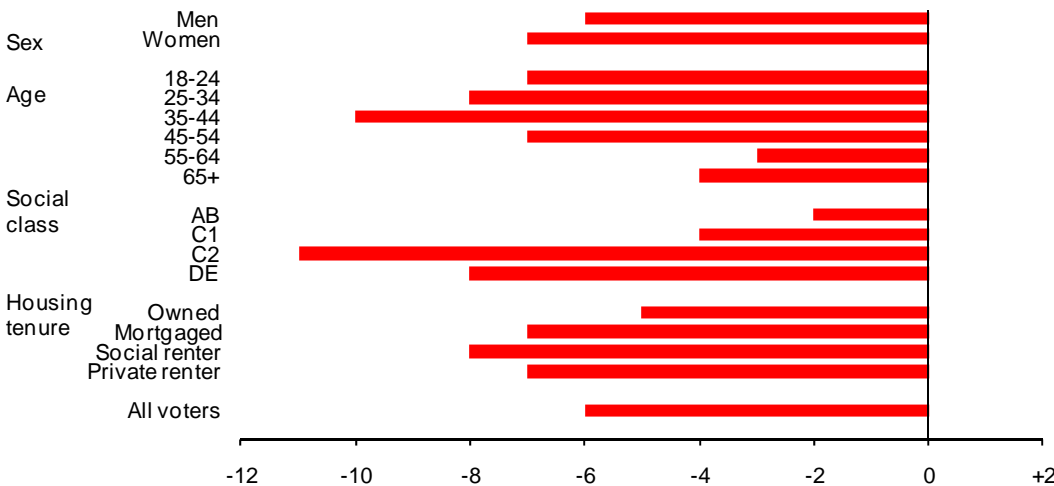
5.3 Labour

The charts below show Labour performance in 2010 by social characteristics, based on Ipsos MORI estimates:



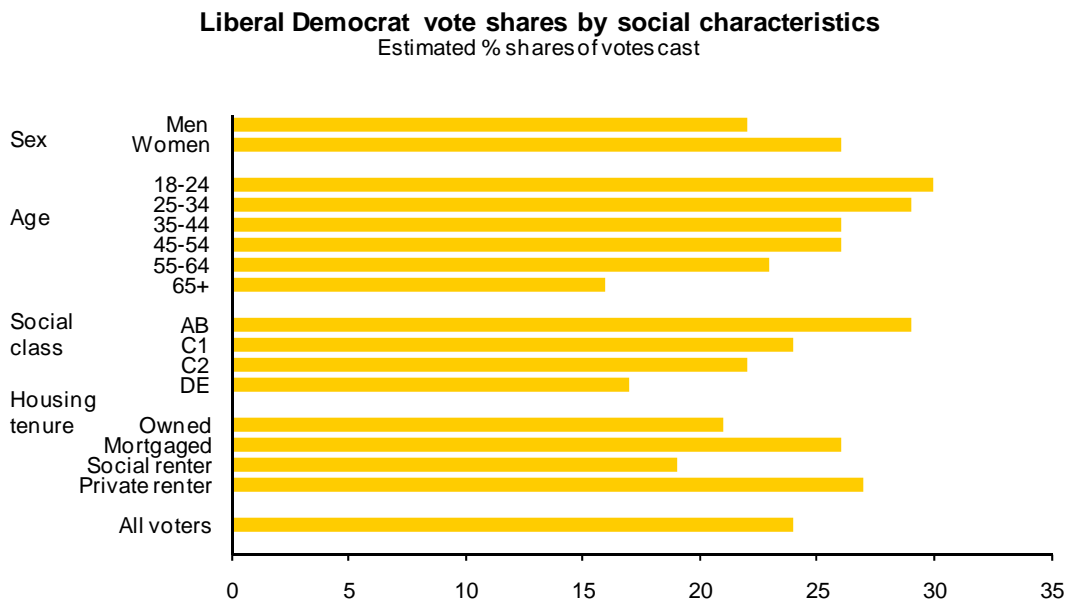
- 31% of women voters supported Labour compared with 28% of men.
- Labour’s support is highest among social renters and the lowest social class. 47% of those in social rented homes voted Labour and 40% in social class DE.
- Support for Labour varied little in relation to age, although there were some differences between the sexes. For those aged 18-24, 34% of men supported Labour, compared to 29% of women. For those aged 25-34, 27% of men supported Labour compared to 38% of women.

Change in Labour vote shares 2005-2010 by social characteristics
Estimated % point change in % share

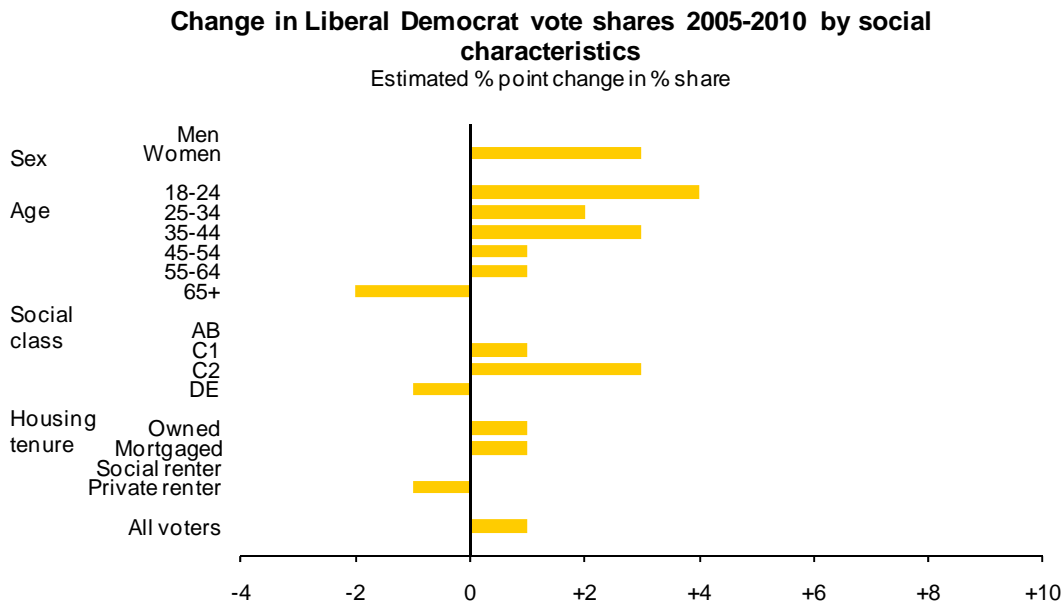


- Labour lost vote share relative to 2005 in all the social groups considered above (as they had in 2005 compared with 2001).
- Loss of vote share was more for women (-7% points) than men (-6% points).
- The largest fall of 11% points was for social class C2, followed by a 10% points fall was for the 35-44 group.

5.4 Liberal Democrat



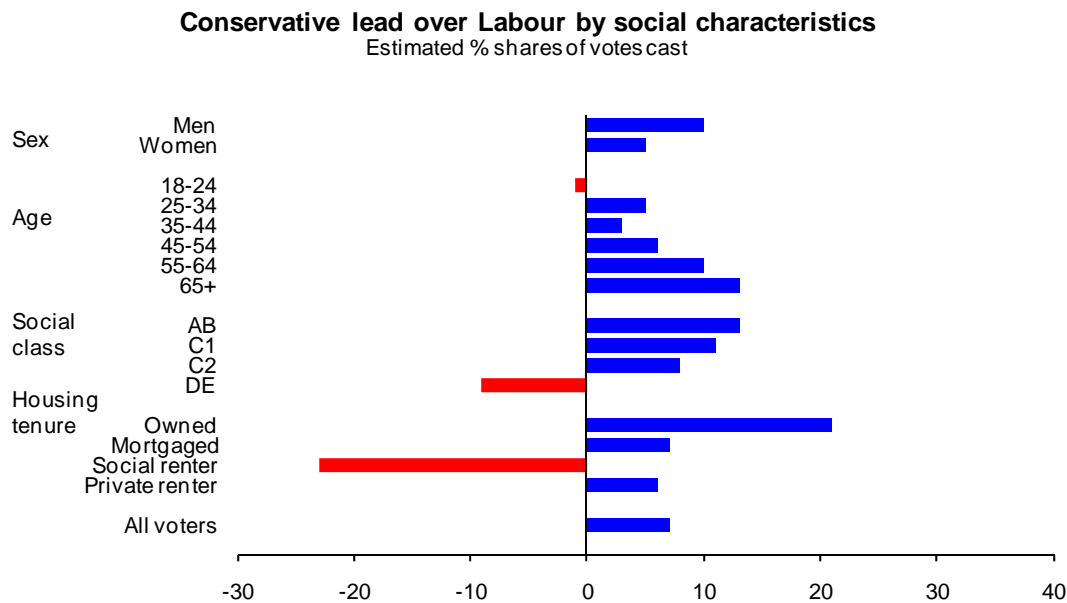
- The Liberal Democrats won 26% of votes among women, compared with 22% for men.
- Liberal Democrat vote share tends to decline with age and increase with social class. Their 30% of the votes of 18-24s is the same as the Conservatives and 1% point behind Labour. The Liberal Democrats' 29% vote share among social class AB puts them second to the Conservatives with 39%, ahead of Labour's 26% for the same group.



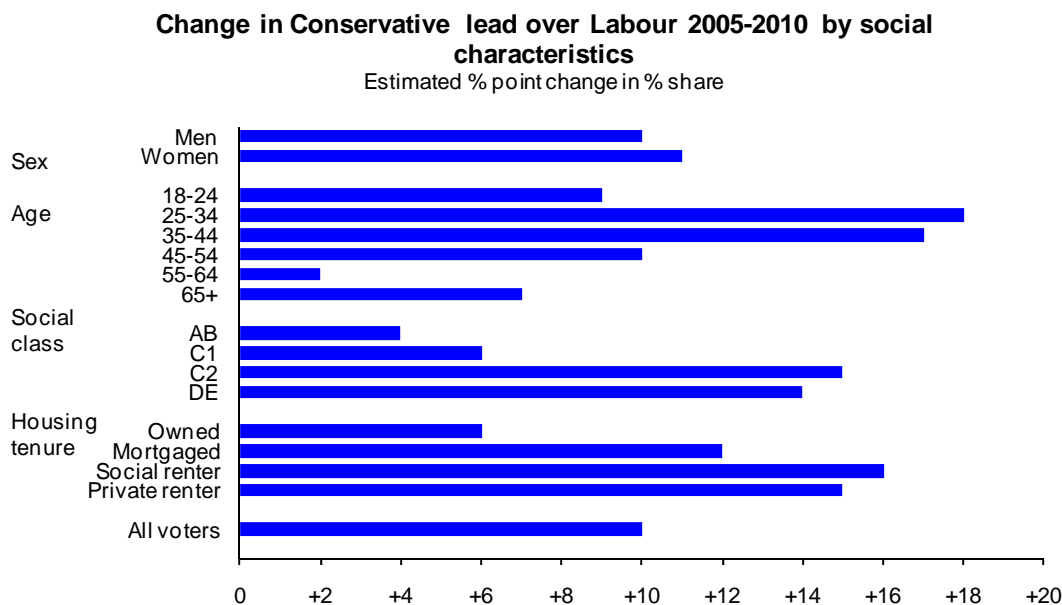
- Liberal Democrat Support was up by 3% points for women, but unchanged on 2005 for men.
- They gained vote share for all age groups except for those aged 65+.
- Liberal Democrat vote share stayed the same for ABs, increased for C1s and C2s and declined for DEs.

5.5 Conservative leads over Labour

The charts below break down the Conservative lead over Labour in 2010 by social characteristics of voters, based on MORI estimates:



- The Conservatives had a lead over Labour across all the social groups considered above, except for the lowest social class and social renters and (just) for 18-24s.
- The data for men and women hides a big gender difference among those aged 25-34. For men in this age group there is a Conservative lead of 18% points; for women Labour is ahead of the Conservatives by 11% points.



- The Conservatives' lead over Labour grew relative to 2005 for all the social groups considered above (as it had in 2005 over 2001).
- The change in the Conservative vote share against the Labour share was particularly marked for those aged 25 to 44, the lower social class groups and those in rented homes (social and private)

6 Candidates

4,150 candidates stood in the election across the 650 constituencies. 3,820 candidates stood for one of the 133 parties represented³, together with 330 independents (including 24 candidates giving no description) and the Speaker. This was the highest number of candidates on record, 596 more than in 2005 and 425 more than the previous record, set in 1997.⁴

6.1 Candidates by sex

21% of the candidates (874) were women, and 79% (3,276) were men, equivalent to 1.3 women and 5.0 men per seat. In 2005, 20.3% of candidates were women, and in 2001 the figure was 19.3%. Of the main parties, Labour had the highest number and percentage of female candidates.

Candidates by party and sex

	Total		Female		
	number	change from 2005	number	%	% point change from 2005
Conservative	631	+1	153	24%	+5%
Labour	631	+4	191	30%	+4%
Liberal Democrats	631	+5	134	21%	-2%
UKIP	558	+62	82	15%	+1%
BNP	338	+219	57	17%	+3%
Green	335	+132	108	32%	+11%
English Democrats	107	+83	11	10%	+2%
Christian Party	71	+71	20	28%	.
Scottish National Party	59	0	17	29%	+7%
Plaid Cymru	40	0	7	18%	+8%
TUSC	37	+37	9	24%	.
Socialist Labour	23	-26	6	26%	-7%
Alliance	18	+6	6	33%	-8%
SDLP	18	0	5	28%	+6%
Sinn Féin	17	-1	3	18%	-5%
Ulster Conservatives and Unionists	17	-1	4	24%	+18%
Christian People's Alliance	17	+8	3	18%	-5%
DUP	16	-2	0	0%	-17%
Independents	330	+150	29	9%	-10%
Others (excl. Independents)	256	-152	29	11%	-7%
Totals	4,150	+596	874	21%	+1%

In terms of votes and seats won per candidate, Conservative women candidates were less successful than their male counterparts. The reverse was true of female candidates standing for Labour. The Liberal Democrats' female candidates on average won a similar number of votes than the party's male candidates, but won a smaller percentage of seats.

³ This includes all parties registered with the Electoral Commission, as well as the party description used by one candidate which was not registered with the Electoral Commission but was recorded on the Statement of Persons Nominated and the Declaration of Result of Poll for the constituency where the candidate stood.

⁴ Some individuals stood in more than one constituency and are counted in each.

Votes per candidate and percentage of candidates winning seat, by party and sex

Party	All		Male		Female	
	<i>votes per candidate</i>	<i>% winners</i>	<i>votes per candidate</i>	<i>% winners</i>	<i>votes per candidate</i>	<i>% winners</i>
Conservative	16,963	48%	17,869	54%	14,134	32%
Labour	13,639	41%	13,225	40%	14,595	42%
Liberal Democrats	10,834	9%	10,735	10%	11,201	5%
DUP	10,514	50%	10,514	50%	.	.
Sinn Féin	10,114	29%	9,022	29%	15,213	33%
Scottish National Party	8,329	10%	8,160	12%	8,746	6%
SDLP	6,165	17%	6,120	15%	6282	20%
Ulster Conservatives and Unionists	6,021	.	6,001	.	6,088	.
Plaid Cymru	4,135	8%	4,325	9%	3,237	.
Alliance	2,376	6%	1,632	.	3,864	17%
BNP	1,670	.	1,671	.	1,663	.
UKIP	1,648	.	1,667	.	1,535	.
Green	853	0%	834	.	892	1%

6.2 Candidates by age

At 18 years 36 days (on 6th May), the independent candidate for Erewash, Luke Wilkins, is believed to be the youngest candidate. 95 year-old Robert Leaky, standing for the Virtue Currency Cognitive Appraisal Party in Skipton and Ripon, is thought to be the oldest; Mr. Leaky was also the oldest candidate in the 2005 election.

6.3 Candidates by party and placing

The Liberal Democrats had the most second and third-placed candidates. 99% of Labour candidates were placed third or above. Most candidates from other parties were placed fifth or lower.

Party of winner by party of second place candidate

		Winner				Total
		CON	LAB	LD	OTH	
Second	CON		147	38	5	190
	LAB	137		17	5	159
	LD	167	76		0	243
	OTH	2	35	2	19	58
	Total	306	258	57	29	650

Of the 190 seats where the Conservatives were placed second, they trailed Labour in 77% and the Liberal Democrats in 20%. Of the 243 seats where the Liberal Democrats were placed second, they trailed the Conservatives in 69%; this contrasts with the 2005 election, where most of their second-place losses were to Labour (56%).

Candidates by party and finishing position

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth/lower	Total
Conservative	306	190	100	33	2	631
Labour	258	159	208	6	0	631
Liberal Democrats	57	243	298	33	0	631
Other	29	58	44	577	1,549	2,257

7 Characteristics of those elected

7.1 Sex, ethnicity and new MPs

Of 650 MPs elected in the 2010 General Election, 143 (22.0%) are women, the highest number and proportion ever. There are 49 Conservative female MPs, 32 more than in 2005. Labour has 17 fewer female MPs than in 2005 although the proportion for female Labour MPs has increased to 31%. Of the three main parties, Labour has the highest proportion of female MPs; the Conservatives have 16% and Liberal Democrats 12%.

Of all those elected in 2010, 64% had been MPs in the previous Parliament. Five MPs from earlier Parliaments were returned, Christopher Leslie, Stephen Twigg, John Cryer, Geraint Davies, and Jonathan Evans. The remaining 227 (35%) have no previous House of Commons experience.

27 MPs elected in 2010 are from minority ethnic groups. Seventeen of these are elected to Parliament for the first time. The number of minority ethnic Conservative MPs is nine higher than in the previous parliament and for Labour the number is up by three. The Liberal Democrats are yet to have a minority ethnic MP elected at a General Election.

MPs elected by party and sex, ethnicity and previous parliamentary experience

	Sex				Parliamentary experience			All		
	Male		Female		Minority Ethnic	Immediately pre-election	Previous (retread)		None (new MP)	
Conservative	257	84%	49	16%	11	4%	158	1	147	306
Labour	177	69%	81	31%	16	6%	191	4	63	258
Liberal Democrat	50	88%	7	12%	-	-	47	-	10	57
Green	-	-	1	100%	-	-	-	-	1	1
SNP	5	83%	1	17%	-	-	5	-	1	6
Plaid Cymru	3	100%	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
DUP	8	100%	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	8
SDLP	2	67%	1	33%	-	-	2	-	1	3
Sinn Féin	4	80%	1	20%	-	-	5	-	-	5
Alliance	-	-	1	100%	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other	1	-	1	50%	-	-	2	-	-	2
All	507	78%	143	22%	27	4%	418	5	227	650

Note: Minority ethnic data are from Operation Black Vote and The Labour Party: *Fairer Britain, your choice*.





7.2 Age

- For those elected in 2010 the average age is 50, a year younger than at the 2005 General Election. Labour MPs are, on average four years older than Conservative, and two years older than Liberal Democrats.
- The oldest MP is Sir Peter Tapsell, Conservative MP for Louth and Horncastle, 80, who was born on 1 February 1930.
- The youngest MP is Pamela Nash, Labour MP for Airdrie and Shotts, at 25 years.

The table below summarises the ages of MPs elected by party:

Age of MPs elected by Party





Age in years on 6 May 2010

	Average	Youngest		Oldest	
 Conservative	48	James Wharton	26	Sir Peter Tapsell	80
 Labour	52	Pamela Nash	25	Sir Gerald Kaufman	79
 Liberal Democrat	50	Jo Swinson	30	Sir Menzies Campbell	68
 Other	51	Jonathan Edwards	33	Pat Doherty	64
Total	50	Pamela Nash	25	Sir Peter Tapsell	80

7.3 Previous parliamentary experience

The table below shows MPs by date first elected and party. An MP with more than one period of service is categorised by the date of the start of their first period only.

MPs elected 2010 General Election by date first elected and party

	 CON	 LAB	 LD	 Other	Total
By general election (includes by-elections before next general election)					
1959	1	0	0	0	1
1964	0	0	0	0	0
1966	0	1	0	0	1
1970	2	3	1	0	6
Feb 1974	3	0	0	0	3
Oct 1974	1	3	0	0	4
1979	2	7	1	0	10
1983	18	9	3	2	32
1987	9	20	1	0	30
1992	21	26	2	1	50
1997	26	59	13	3	101
2001	22	30	9	9	70
2005	54	37	17	7	115
2010	147	63	10	7	227
Total	306	258	57	29	650
Summaries					
Pre-1979	7	7	1	0	15
1979 - pre-1997	50	62	7	3	122
1997 - pre-2001	26	59	13	3	101
2001 - pre-2005	22	30	9	9	70
2005 - pre-2010	54	37	17	7	115
2010	147	63	10	7	227
Total	306	258	57	29	650
<i>of which at by-elections</i>	10	30	5	0	45
Summaries (% of those elected in 2010)					
Pre-1979	2%	3%	2%	0%	2%
1979 - pre-1997	16%	24%	12%	10%	19%
1997 - pre-2001	8%	23%	23%	10%	16%
2001 - pre-2005	7%	12%	16%	31%	11%
2005 - pre-2010	18%	14%	30%	24%	18%
2010	48%	24%	18%	24%	35%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>of which at by-elections</i>	3%	12%	9%	0%	7%

Of MPs elected in the 2010 General Election:

- 69% of Liberal Democrats were first elected between the 1997 General Election and prior to the 2010 General Election, compared with 49% of Labour MPs and 33% of Conservative MPs.
- 48% of Conservative MPs were first elected in the 2010 General Election, compared with 24% of Labour MPs and 18% of Liberal Democrat MPs.
- 7% were first elected at by-elections, including 12% of Labour, 9% of Liberal Democrats and 3% of Conservatives.
- Conservative MP for Louth and Horncastle, Sir Peter Tapsell, has the longest continuous service, and therefore becomes Father of the House. He was first elected at the 1959 General Election, having contested a by-election in Wednesbury in February 1957. At the time of the election, he had been an MP for a total 49 years, his service only interrupted between the 1964 and 1966 General Elections.

7.4 Education

- 54% of Conservative MPs, 14% of Labour MPs and 39% of Liberal Democrats attended private schools. Around three-quarters of MPs are university graduates and over a quarter of MPs attended Oxbridge universities.
- Twenty MPs are Old Etonians, nineteen of whom are Conservatives; one is a Liberal Democrat. It is the first election since 1923 that there have been no Old Etonians elected as Labour MPs.⁵

7.5 Occupation

Of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs elected:

- 35% have a professional background; this includes 14% who were barristers or solicitors and 8% who were teachers in schools or in universities and colleges.
- A quarter have a background in business, although the proportion varies across the parties. 41% of Conservative MPs have a business background, compared to 8% of Labour MPs and 19% of Liberal Democrat MPs.
- One in seven (14%) was previously a politician or political organiser. The proportion of MPs from this occupation has been rising at each election since 1983, when only 3% of MPs elected had such a background.
- 4% were manual workers; most of these (22 out of 25) are Labour MPs. The proportion of MPs who were manual workers has declined from 12% in 1983 and 16% in 1979.⁶

⁵ Kavanagh, D. and Cowley, P., *The British General Election of 2010*, Palgrave, 2010, pp325-6

⁶ *Ibid*, p327

8 The electorate and turnout

8.1 Electorate

The UK parliamentary electorate on 6 May 2010 was 45,597,461.

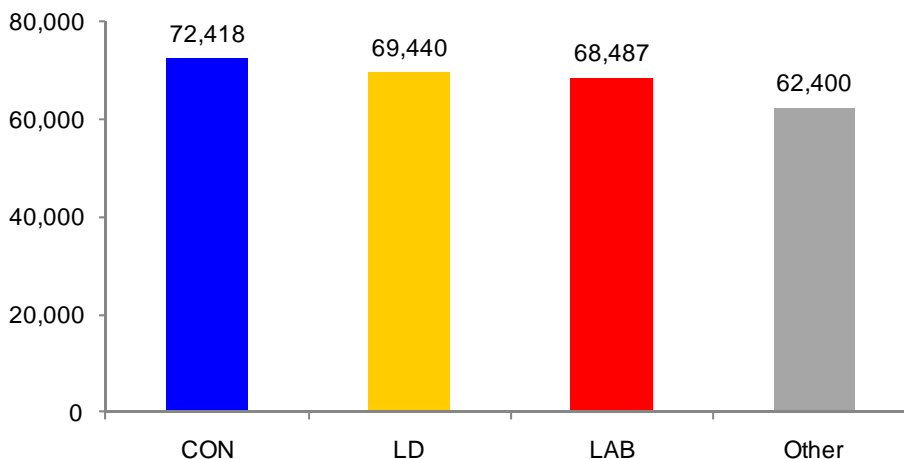
The electorate varies considerably by constituency. The largest seat, the Isle of Wight, has 40,000 more electors than the UK average while the smallest, Na h-Eileanan an Iar, has 48,000 fewer.

Highest and lowest constituency electorates

		Electorate
1	Isle of Wight	109,922
2	East Ham	90,674
3	Manchester Central	90,110
4	North West Cambridgeshire	88,851
5	Holborn and St Pancras	86,563
6	Milton Keynes South	86,559
7	Oxford West and Abingdon	86,458
8	Ilford South	86,220
9	West Ham	85,313
10	Croydon North	85,216
	UK average	70,150
641	Aberavon	50,838
642	Cynon Valley	50,650
643	Ynys Môn	50,075
644	Montgomeryshire	48,730
645	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	47,263
646	Dw yfor Meirionnydd	45,354
647	Aberconwy	44,593
648	Arfon	41,198
649	Orkney and Shetland	33,085
650	Na h-Eileanan an Iar	21,780

On average, seats won by the Conservatives had larger electorates than those won by Labour and, to a lesser extent, than those won by the Liberal Democrats. On average Conservative seats had around 3,900 more electors than Labour seats.

Average constituency electorate by winning party



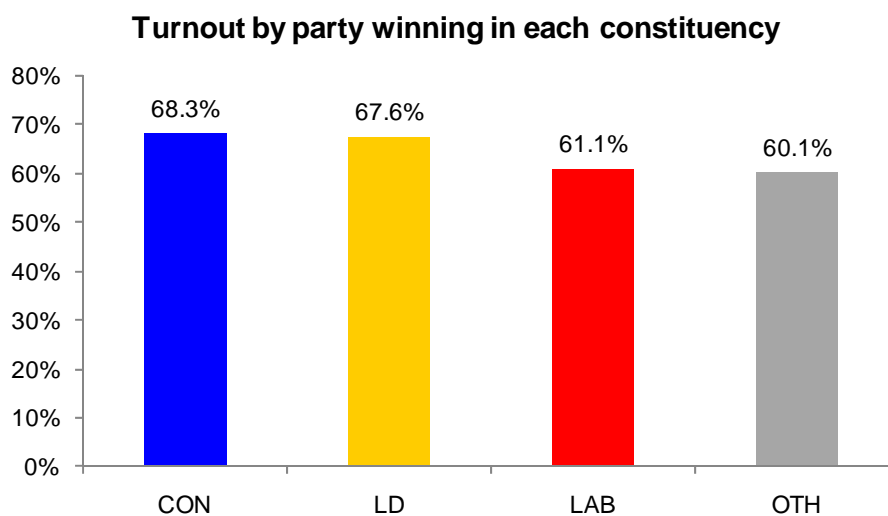
8.2 Turnout

Turnout, measured as valid votes as a proportion of the May 6 electorate, was 65.1% across the UK, 3.7% points higher than in 2005. The table below shows the highest and lowest constituency turnouts:

Highest and lowest constituency turnouts			Turnout
1	■	East Renfrew shire	77.3%
2	■	Westmorland and Lonsdale	76.9%
3	■	Richmond Park	76.2%
4	■	Winchester	75.8%
5	■	Central Devon	75.7%
6	■	North East Somerset	75.4%
7	■	St Albans	75.4%
8	■	Kenilworth and Southam	75.2%
9	■	Thornbury and Yate	75.2%
10	■	East Dunbartonshire	75.2%
UK average			65.1%
641	■	Glasgow Central	50.9%
642	■	East Antrim	50.7%
643	■	Kingston upon Hull East	50.6%
644	■	Manchester, Gorton	50.5%
645	■	Thirsk and Malton	49.9%
646	■	Blackley and Broughton	49.2%
647	■	Glasgow North East	49.1%
648	■	Birmingham, Ladywood	48.7%
649	■	Leeds Central	46.0%
650	■	Manchester Central	44.3%

The highest turnout in the UK was in East Renfrewshire, where turnout was just over 77%. The lowest turnouts are mostly in urban areas. In six constituencies turnout was below 50% – these include Thirsk and Malton where the poll was postponed.

Turnout across constituencies which elected a Conservative MP was 7.3% points higher than in areas with a Labour MP.



9 Safe and marginal seats

The table below shows the ten safest and ten most marginal seats following the 2010 General Election, measured by percentage majority.

Safest and most marginal seats: by % majority

	Constituency	1st	2nd	Majority	% majority
Safest					
1	Liverpool, Walton	LAB	LD	19,818	57.7%
2	Knowsley	LAB	LD	25,686	57.5%
3	East Ham	LAB	CON	27,826	55.2%
4	Belfast West	SF	SDLP	17,579	54.7%
5	Glasgow North East	LAB	SNP	15,942	54.2%
6	Liverpool, West Derby	LAB	LD	18,467	51.6%
7	Orkney and Shetland	LD	LAB	9,928	51.3%
8	Bootle	LAB	LD	21,181	51.3%
9	Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	LAB	SNP	23,009	50.2%
10	Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	LAB	SNP	20,714	49.8%
Most marginal					
641	Solihull	LD	CON	175	0.3%
642	Oxford West and Abingdon	CON	LD	176	0.3%
643	Oldham East and Saddleworth	LAB	LD	103	0.2%
644	Hendon	CON	LAB	106	0.2%
645	Thurrock	CON	LAB	92	0.2%
646	Bolton West	LAB	CON	92	0.2%
647	Camborne and Redruth	CON	LD	66	0.2%
648	North Warwickshire	CON	LAB	54	0.1%
649	Hampstead and Kilburn	LAB	CON	42	0.1%
650	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	SF	IND	4	0.0%

The safest seat in percentage terms is Liverpool Walton, held by new MP Steve Rotheram for Labour with a majority of 57.7% or 19,818 votes. The largest majority in terms of votes – 27,826 or 55.2% of votes – is East Ham held by Stephen Timms for Labour.

The safest Conservative seat by both absolute and percentage majority is Richmond in Yorkshire, held by William Hague with a majority of 43.7% or 23,336 votes.

The safest Liberal Democrat seat in percentage terms is Orkney and Shetland, held by Alistair Carmichael with a majority of 51.3% or 9,928 votes. The safest Liberal Democrat seat in terms of number of votes is Nick Clegg's Sheffield Hallam seat, with a majority of 15,284 or 29.9% of votes.

The least safe seat – in both percentage terms and number of votes – is Fermanagh and South Tyrone, held by Michelle Gildernew for Sinn Fein with 4 votes (0.0%). Labour's Glenda Jackson has the next smallest majority, in Hampstead and Kilburn, with 0.1% or 42 votes, followed by the Conservative Daniel Byles with a majority of 0.1% or 54 votes in North Warwickshire.

The Liberal Democrat with the smallest percentage majority – again both in percentage terms and in terms of the number of votes – is Lorely Burt in Solihull with a majority of 175 or 0.3% of the number of votes. A listing of all seats by marginality is in **Section 18**.

10 Election miscellany

10.1 Records and firsts

- A coalition in power for the first time in more than 60 years.
- This election brought the end of the longest continuous Labour government. Labour were in office for over 13 years, since the 1997 General Election.
- Caroline Lucas, elected in Brighton Pavilion, is the first Green Party MP.
- Naomi Long is the first MP elected for the Alliance Party, although she is not the first Alliance Party MP – William Stratton Mills, who was elected as a Unionist, later resigned from the party and sat as an Alliance member during 1973 and 1974.⁷
- The first three Muslim female MPs were elected in 2010 – Shabana Mahmood in Birmingham Ladywood, Rushanara Ali in Bethnal Green and Bow, and Yasmin Qureshi in Bolton South East. The first Muslim woman member of Cabinet is Baroness Warsi, as Minister without Portfolio. At least 89 Muslim candidates ran in the election – this is a record number.⁸
- The Coalition government includes Liberal Democrat ministers; these are the first ever Liberal Democrat ministers although there have been Liberal ministers before.
- At 43, David Cameron is the youngest Prime Minister since the Earl of Liverpool took office in 1812, aged 42. Tony Blair was also 43 on taking office in 1997, but was a few months older than David Cameron when becoming Prime Minister.

10.2 Family ties

A number of new MPs have a family link to other politicians:⁹

- Jack Dromey is married to MP Harriet Harman.
- Benedict Gummer is son of the former MP John Gummer, who was given a peerage in the May 2010 dissolution honours list.
- Jo Johnson is the brother of ex-MP and London Mayor Boris Johnson.
- Valerie Vaz is the sister of current MP Keith Vaz.
- Anas Sarwar is the son of previous MP Mohammad Sarwar, who was MP for the same constituency (Glasgow Central).
- Ian Paisley Junior is the son of previous MP Ian Paisley, who was MP for the same constituency (North Antrim) and who was given a peerage in the May 2010 dissolution honours list.
- Zac Goldsmith is the son of former French MEP Sir James Goldsmith and the grandson of MP Major Frank Goldsmith.
- Caroline Nokes is daughter of former MEP Roy Perry.
- Mark Pawsey is son of former MP James Pawsey.
- Jacob Rees-Mogg is son of Lord Rees-Mogg.

⁷ <http://www.ark.ac.uk/elections/dnb.htm>

⁸ Muslim News

⁹ Many of these links were identified by the Madano Partnership, as was the political experience of the new MPs.

- Laura Sandys is daughter of former MP Lord Duncan-Sandys.
- Julian Sturdy is son of MEP Robert Sturdy.
- Robin Walker is son of former MP Lord Walker of Worcester.
- Paul Blomfield is married to MEP Linda McAvan.
































10.3 Political experience

- Five previous MPs return after time away from Parliament – John Cryer, Geraint Davies, Jonathan Evans, Christopher Leslie and Stephen Twigg.
- New or returning MPs Jonathan Evans, Chris Heaton-Harris, Neil Parish and Caroline Lucas all have been MEPs.
- New MPs Alun Cairns and Glyn Davies have both been Welsh Assembly Members – Alun Cairns remains an Assembly Member.
- New MPs Margaret Curran and Cathie Jamieson are both currently Members of the Scottish Parliament.
- New MPs Ian Paisley Jnr, Jim Shannon, Margaret Richie and Naomi Long are also members of the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- New MPs Bob Blackman, Angie Bray and Eric Ollerenshaw have all been members of the London Assembly.

12 Incumbent MPs who were defeated

76 candidates who were MPs at the end of the 2005-10 Parliament were defeated.

Member	Party (at dissolution)	2010 constituency	First elected
Ainger, Nick	LAB	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	09-Apr-92
Anderson, Janet	LAB	Rossendale and Darwen	09-Apr-92
Atkins, Charlotte	LAB	Staffordshire Moorlands	01-May-97
Baird, Vera	LAB	Redcar	07-Jun-01
Barlow, Celia	LAB	Hove	05-May-05
Berry, Roger	LAB	Kingswood	09-Apr-92
Blizzard, Bob	LAB	Waveney	01-May-97
Borrow, David S.	LAB	South Ribble	01-May-97
Butler, Dawn	LAB	Brent South	05-May-05
Cawsey, Ian	LAB	Brigg and Goole	01-May-97
Clark, Paul	LAB	Gillingham	01-May-97
Clarke, Charles	LAB	Norwich South	01-May-97
Cook, Frank	LAB	Stockton North	09-Jun-83
Davies, Dai	IND	Blaenau Gwent	29-Jun-06
Dhanda, Parmjit	LAB	Gloucester	07-Jun-01
Dismore, Andrew	LAB	Hendon	01-May-97
Drew, David	LAB	Stroud	01-May-97
Foster, Michael Jabez	LAB	Hastings and Rye	01-May-97
Foster, Michael	LAB	Worcester	01-May-97
Galloway, George	RES	Bethnal Green and Bow	11-Jun-87
Gidley, Sandra	LD	Romsey	04-May-00
Gilroy, Linda	LAB	Plymouth, Sutton	01-May-97
Goldsworthy, Julia	LD	Falmouth and Camborne	05-May-05
Hall, Patrick	LAB	Bedford	01-May-97
Harris, Evan	LD	Oxford West and Abingdon	01-May-97
Heathcoat-Amory, David	CON	Wells	09-Jun-83
Holmes, Paul	LD	Chesterfield	07-Jun-01
Hope, Phil	LAB	Corby	01-May-97
Jenkins, Brian	LAB	Tamworth	11-Apr-96
Keeble, Sally	LAB	Northampton North	01-May-97
Keen, Ann	LAB	Brentford and Isleworth	09-Apr-92
Kidney, David	LAB	Stafford	01-May-97
Knight, Jim	LAB	South Dorset	07-Jun-01
Kramer, Susan	LD	Richmond Park	05-May-05
Ladyman, Stephen	LAB	South Thanet	01-May-97
Linton, Martin	LAB	Battersea	01-May-97
McCarthy-Fry, Sarah	LAB	Portsmouth North	05-May-05
McIsaac, Shona	LAB	Cleethorpes	01-May-97
McNulty, Tony	LAB	Harrow East	01-May-97
Malik, Shahid	LAB	Dewsbury	05-May-05
Mallaber, Judy	LAB	Amber Valley	01-May-97
Marris, Rob	LAB	Wolverhampton South West	07-Jun-01
Mason, John	SNP	Glasgow East	31-Mar-53
Merron, Gillian	LAB	Lincoln	01-May-97
Mole, Chris	LAB	Ipswich	22-Nov-01

Member	Party (at dissolution)	2010 constituency	First elected
Morgan, Julie	 LAB	Cardiff North	01-May-97
Norris, Dan	 LAB	Wansdyke	01-May-97
O'Brien, Mike	 LAB	North Warwickshire	09-Apr-92
Öpik, Lembit	 LD	Montgomeryshire	01-May-97
Palmer, Nick	 LAB	Broxtowe	01-May-97
Pelling, Andrew	 IND	Croydon Central	05-May-05
Plaskitt, James	 LAB	Warwick and Leamington	01-May-97
Prentice, Gordon	 LAB	Pendle	09-Apr-92
Prosser, Gwyn	 LAB	Dover	01-May-97
Rammell, Bill	 LAB	Harlow	01-May-97
Reed, Andy	 LAB	Loughborough	01-May-97
Rennie, Willie	 LD	Dunfermline and West Fife	09-Feb-06
Robinson, Peter	 DUP	Belfast East	03-May-79
Rooney, Terry	 LAB	Bradford North	08-Nov-90
Rowen, Paul	 LD	Rochdale	05-May-05
Russell, Christine	 LAB	Chester, City of	01-May-97
Ryan, Joan	 LAB	Enfield North	01-May-97
Shaw, Jonathan	 LAB	Chatham and Aylesford	01-May-97
Smith, Angela, E.	 LAB	Basildon	01-May-97
Smith, Geraldine	 LAB	Morecambe and Lunesdale	01-May-97
Smith, Jacqui	 LAB	Redditch	01-May-97
Snelgrove, Anne	 LAB	South Swindon	05-May-05
Spink, Bob	 IND	Castle Point	09-Apr-92
Starkey, Phyllis	 LAB	Milton Keynes South West	01-May-97
Taylor, Dari	 LAB	Stockton South	01-May-97
Taylor, Richard	 IND	Wyre Forest	07-Jun-01
Waltho, Lynda	 LAB	Stourbridge	05-May-05
Ward, Claire	 LAB	Watford	01-May-97
Waterson, Nigel	 CON	Eastbourne	09-Apr-92
Wright, Anthony	 LAB	Great Yarmouth	01-May-97
Younger-Ross, Richard	 LD	Teignbridge	07-Jun-01

The 76 defeated MPs included:

- 58 former Labour MPs
- 2 former Conservative MPs
- 9 former Liberal Democrat MPs
- George Galloway who had previously been the only MP for Respect, Richard Taylor who stood for Independent Community and Health Concern, and Dai Davies, an Independent in Blaenau Gwent
- Peter Robinson, the DUP leader

14 By-elections and changes of allegiance 2005-10

Comparisons in this paper are made on the basis of results at General Elections. This section summarises the fourteen by-elections during the 2005-10 Parliament and lists the MPs who changed party allegiance over the period. Full by-election results are available in House of Commons Library Research Paper 10/50, [By-elections 2005-2010](#).

14.1 By-elections

There were fourteen by-elections during the 2005-10 Parliament. Eight of the fourteen by-elections were caused by the death of the sitting MP. The remaining six were due to resignations, notably Tony Blair in Sedgefield (July 2007) following his resignation as Prime Minister and Boris Johnson in Henley (June 2008) who was successful in his bid to become Mayor of London.

The table summarises the results:

By-elections 2005-10: summary results

	Date	Result	Winner	Change in % since 2005 (% pts)				Turnout
				LD	CON	LAB	SNP/PC	
Cheadle	15 July 2005	L Dem hold	Mark Hunter	3.3%	2.0%	-4.2%	...	55.2%
Livingston	29 September 2005	Lab hold	Jim Devine	-0.6%	-3.4%	-9.3%	11.1%	38.6%
Dunfermline & W Fife	09 February 2006	L Dem gain	Willie Rennie	15.4%	-2.6%	-17.4%	1.8%	48.7%
Blaenau Gwent	29 June 2006	Ind hold	Dai Davies	1.2%	1.4%	4.7%	4.1%	51.7%
Bromley & Chislehurst	29 June 2006	Con hold	Robert Neill	17.5%	-11.1%	-15.6%	...	40.5%
Ealing, Southall	19 July 2007	Lab hold	Virendra Sharma	3.2%	0.9%	-7.3%	...	42.9%
Sedgefield	19 July 2007	Lab hold	Philip Wilson	8.0%	0.2%	-14.1%	...	41.5%
Crewe & Nantwich	22 May 2008	Con gain	Edward Timpson	-4.0%	16.9%	-18.3%	...	57.7%
Henley	26 June 2008	Con hold	John Howell	1.8%	3.5%	-11.7%	...	50.3%
Haltemprice & Howden	10 July 2008	Con hold	David Davis	...	24.1%	34.1%
Glasgow East	24 July 2008	SNP gain	John Mason	-19.0%	-0.6%	-8.4%	26.1%	42.2%
Glenrothes	06 November 2008	Lab hold	Lindsay Roy	-10.0%	-3.3%	3.2%	13.1%	52.3%
Norwich North	23 July 2009	Con gain	Chloe Smith	-2.2%	6.3%	-26.7%	...	45.8%
Glasgow North East	12 November 2009	Lab win	Willie Bain	2.3%	33.0%

Labour had won 8 of these 14 constituencies in the 2005 General Election, with the Conservatives taking 3, the Liberal Democrats 1 and an Independent also winning 1. Labour retained 4 constituencies in the subsequent by-elections, and lost 4 - Dunfermline & West Fife to the Liberal Democrats, Crewe & Nantwich and Norwich North to the Conservatives, and Glasgow East to the SNP.

At the 2010 general election, Labour held Livingston, Ealing, Southall, Sedgefield, Glenrothes and Glasgow North East, and regained three seats – Dunfermline & West Fife from the Liberal Democrats, Blaenau Gwent from an Independent and Glasgow East from the SNP. The Conservatives retained all five of their seats won in the by-elections (Bromley & Chislehurst, Crewe & Nantwich, Henley, Haltemprice & Howden and Norwich North) whilst the Liberal Democrats held Cheadle.

14.2 Changes of party allegiance & party status

During the 2005-10 Parliament, there were a number of changes that affected the balance of the parties in the House of Commons, in addition to those caused by by-elections. These are detailed by MP as follows:

- Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood) – from Labour to Independent Labour (2006)
- Quentin Davies (Grantham & Stamford) – from Conservative to Labour (2007)
- Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby) – from Labour to Independent (2007)
- Andrew Pelling (Croydon Central) – whip suspended (2007); contested Croydon Central in 2010 as an Independent, but lost
- Derek Conway (Old Bexley & Sidcup) – whip withdrawn (2008)
- Bob Spink (Castle Point) – resigned the Conservative whip (March 2008), joined UKIP (April 2008) then became an Independent (November 2008)
- Ian Gibson (Norwich North) – resigned from the Labour Party (2009)
- Michael Martin (Glasgow North East) – resigned from post of Speaker (2009)
- John Bercow (Buckingham) – elected Speaker of the House of Commons (2009)
- Iris Robinson (Strangford) – resigned (2010)
- David Chaytor (Bury North) – suspended from Labour Party (2010)
- Jim Devine (Livingstone) – suspended from Labour Party (2010)
- Elliot Morley (Scunthorpe) – suspended from Labour Party (2010)
- Sylvia Hermon (North Down) – from Ulster Unionist to Independent (2010)

Only two of these MPs, John Bercow and Sylvia Hermon, were re-elected at the 2010 General Election.

At the end of the 2005-10 Parliament there were 3 vacant seats: NW Leicestershire, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (following the deaths of David Taylor MP and Ashok Kumar MP) and Strangford (following the resignation of Iris Robinson).

15 Polling Day

The General Election was held on 6th May 2010, a Thursday for the 19th consecutive time. The polls were open from 7am to 10pm. In Thirsk and Malton voting was postponed until 27th May 2010.

15.1 Local and mayoral elections

Local elections were held in 164 of the 351 English local authorities on 6th May. 4,223 council seats were up for election, 20.4% of the total in England. Four mayoral elections were also held, in Hackney, Lewisham, Newham and Watford.¹⁰

2010 Local Elections: summary of result and changes

All local authorities, Great Britain

	Seats won ¹		Council control		National equivalent share of vote ²	
	Number	Net change	Number	Net change	%	Net change
CON	1,609	-143	201	-7	37%	+2
LAB	1,778	+384	54	+17	30%	+8
LD	728	-142	25	-1	24%	-1
OTH	108	-99	12	0	10%	-8
NOC	.	.	113	-9	.	.

Notes

1. Figures for net change in seats won are approximate.

2. National equivalent share of the vote in 2010 is calculated as each party's vote share in the General Election; the net change in national equivalent share of vote is as compared to 2009 local elections, measured in %points.

Source: Rallings and Thrasher, *Local Elections Handbook 2010* and personal communication

In the mayoral elections, all four incumbents (three Labour and one Liberal Democrat), were re-elected.

15.2 Weather

6th May 2010 was mainly dry and mild, although rain showers affected parts of Northern Ireland, west Wales and the South West.

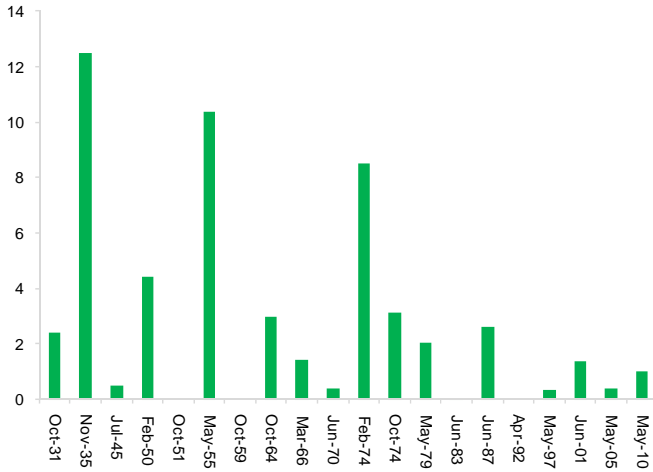
Extremes of temperature, rainfall and sunshine from midnight 6th to midnight 7th May 2010, UK

Highest Day Max	West Freugh	15.1C
Lowest Day Max	Lerwick	8.9C
Lowest Night Min	Machrihanish	1.2C
Highest Rainfall	Cambourne	13.0mm
Highest Sunshine	Kirkwall	13.8 Hours

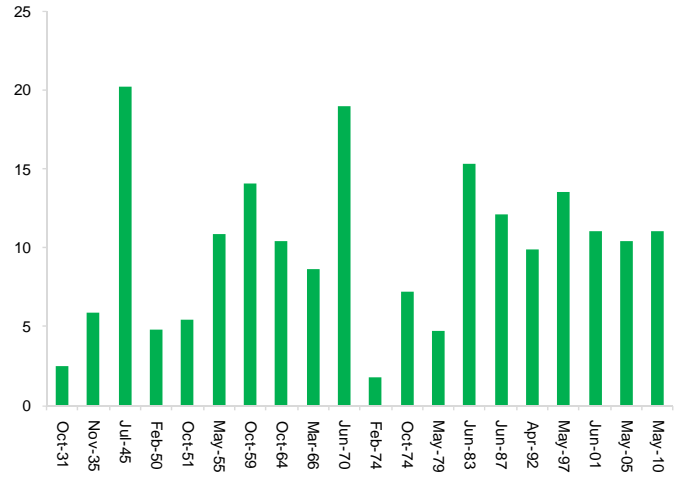
¹⁰ For further details, see Library Research Paper 10/50, *Local Elections 2010*

Election day weather for 2010 was similar to that for UK general elections over the last 30 years. February 1974 stands out as being a both cold and wet election day, but this was not unusual for that time of year. Election days in July 1945 and June 1970 were the warmest days for general elections since 1931; and November 1935 was the wettest.

Election day precipitation, average across England and Wales, 1931-2010, mm



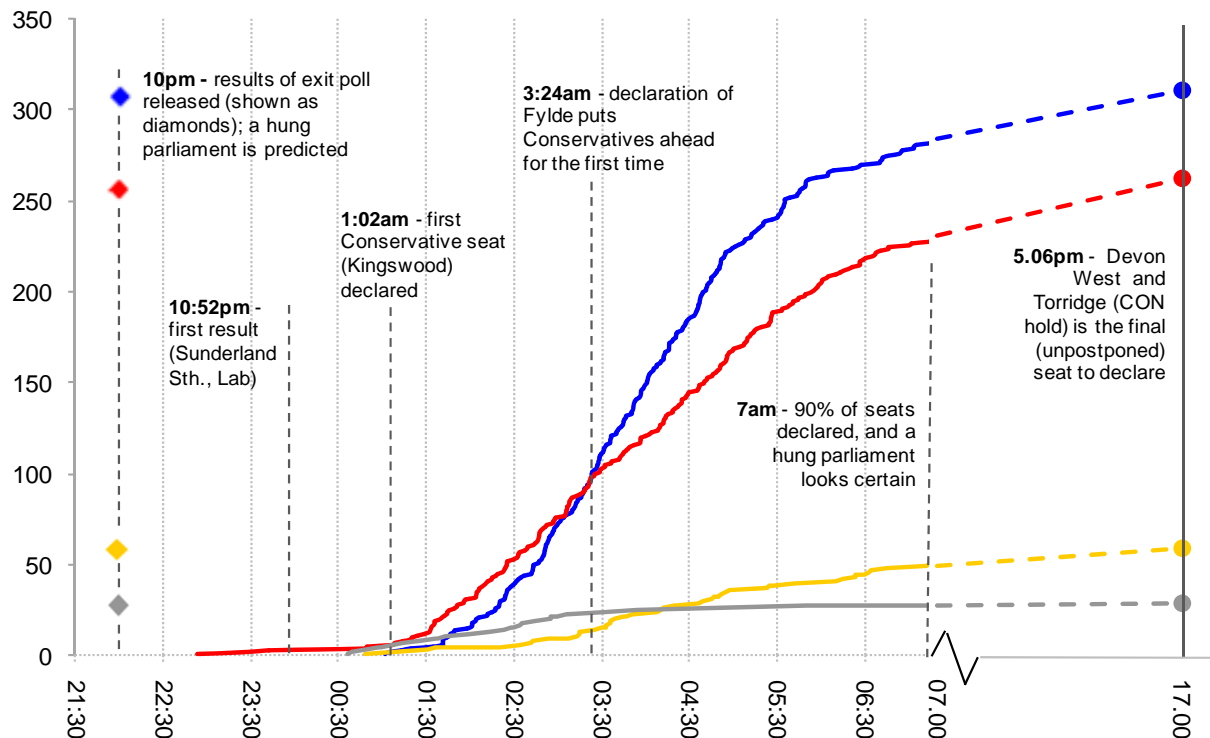
Election day Central England Temperature, 1931-2010, Celsius



Source: Met Office Hadley Centre

15.3 Election night

The chart below shows the number of seats declared for each party as election night unfolded.



The BBC/ITV/Sky exit poll was released at 10pm and predicted the final result to within four seats for each party.

For the fifth consecutive election, Houghton and Sunderland South¹¹ was the first constituency to declare, 52 minutes after the 10pm close of poll. It missed the record it set in 2001 by nine minutes. Two other parliamentary constituencies in Sunderland also declared quickly, Washington and Sunderland West at 23:26 and Sunderland Central 23:41. These were the only constituencies to declare a result on polling day itself.

22 constituencies (excluding Thirsk and Malton) did not begin counting until the day after polling day and it was not until 5.06pm that the last result was declared.

For the first time for many years, ballots were counted overnight in Northern Ireland, and constituencies there were among the first to declare results. In previous elections, counting had not started until the following morning for security reasons.

Declaration times

Approximate times constituency results were declared

		Time	Date
Earliest			
1	Houghton & Sunderland South	22:52	06-May
2	Washington & Sunderland West	23:26	06-May
3	Sunderland Central	23:41	06-May
4	West Tyrone	00:36	07-May
5	North Antrim	00:39	07-May
6	Darlington	00:48	07-May
7	Thornbury & Yate	00:48	07-May
8	Belfast East	00:48	07-May
9	Durham North	00:49	07-May
10	Lagan Valley	00:58	07-May
Latest			
639	Penrith & The Border	14:30	07-May
640	Hackney North & Stoke Newington	14:33	07-May
641	Fermanagh & South Tyrone	15:02	07-May
642	Hackney South & Shoreditch	15:07	07-May
643	St Ives	15:10	07-May
644	Amber Valley	15:14	07-May
645	Morecambe & Lunesdale	15:15	07-May
646	Dudley North	15:31	07-May
647	Lancaster & Fleetwood	15:37	07-May
648	Devon West & Torridge	17:06	07-May

¹¹ Prior to the fifth Boundary Review, this constituency was Sunderland South. The boundary changes increased the size of the electorate and there were 7,309 more votes cast than in 2005.

15.4 Queues at the close of poll

During the final hours of polling, queues formed outside some polling stations and there were reports of people being unable to vote after they closed at 10pm. The Electoral Commission published an interim report into these problems on the 20th May¹² based on interviews with Returning Officers, feedback from political parties, and 500 comments submitted to the Commission by individuals affected. The Commission cited inappropriate assumptions about turnout, inadequate management and poor contingency planning as common factors causing the problems. It also criticised the restrictiveness of existing rules governing the close of poll, which provide no leeway for those in the queue at 10pm to be issued with ballot papers.

Twenty-seven polling stations in sixteen constituencies were identified by the Commission as experiencing problems at the close of poll. These are shown in the table below. In none of the constituencies could the scale of the problems, as estimated, have affected the result.

Queues at close of poll: areas affected and scale of problem

Local Authority	Constituency	Number of polling stations affected	Estimated numbers unable to vote	as % of electorate	Majority of winner
Birmingham	Birmingham Ladywood	1	100	0.136%	10,105
Hackney	Hackney North and Stoke Newington	1	30	0.041%	14,461
	Hackney South and Shoreditch	5	242	0.332%	14,288
Islington	Islington North	1	36	0.053%	12,401
Lewisham	Lewisham Deptford	1	0 ^b	0%	12,401
Liverpool	Liverpool Wavertree	4	n/a	n/a	7,167
	Garston and Halewood	1	n/a	n/a	16,877
Manchester	Manchester Withington	2	300	0.403%	1,894
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes North	1	0 ^b	0%	8,961
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1	0 ^b	0%	1,552
Newcastle upon Tyne	Newcastle upon Tyne East	2	0 ^b	0%	4,453
	Newcastle upon Tyne North	1	7	0.010%	3,414
Runnymede	Runnymede and Weybridge	1	34	0.047%	16,509
Sheffield	Sheffield Hallam	3	340	0.490%	15,284
	Sheffield Heeley	1	70	0.106%	5,807
	Penistone and Stocksbridge	1	70	0.102%	3,049
Total: 11	16	27	1,229	0.003%	

^a Based on information provided by Returning Officers. The Commission stated that 'we are confident that the information we have obtained from Returning Officers represents a realistic assessment of the problems as far as they are aware'

^b Returning Officers reported that all people queuing at 10pm were able to cast a vote in these polling stations

¹² Electoral Commission [2010 UK Parliamentary general election, Interim Report](#)

16 The campaign

16.1 Timetable and news events

April

Tuesday	6	Gordon Brown announces that the election will be held on 6 May 2010
Wednesday	7	The last Prime Minister's Questions is held before the election
Thursday	8	Parliament prorogues
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	Labour manifesto launch
Tuesday	13	Conservative, UKIP and Plaid Cymru manifesto launches
Wednesday	14	Liberal Democrat manifesto launch
Thursday	15	The first of the Prime Ministerial television debates takes place in Manchester; Green party manifesto launch; a volcanic eruption in Iceland causes all UK flights to be grounded
Friday	16	Conservative Welsh manifesto launch
Saturday	17	English Democrat manifesto launch
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	Democratic Unionist Party manifesto launch
Tuesday	20	Scottish National Party manifesto launch; the last day for voter registration.
Wednesday	21	Social Democratic and Labour Party manifesto launch
Thursday	22	The second Prime Ministerial television debate takes place in Bristol
Friday	23	British National Party manifesto launch
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	Senior Scottish political figures appear in a television debate about the economy
Monday	26	
Tuesday	27	SNP lodge a court appeal against their exclusion from the Prime Ministerial debates by the BBC
Wednesday	28	Gordon Brown gets caught on microphone describing a voter as a "bigoted woman"; Sinn Fein manifesto launch
Thursday	29	The final Prime Ministerial television debate takes place in Birmingham
Friday	30	

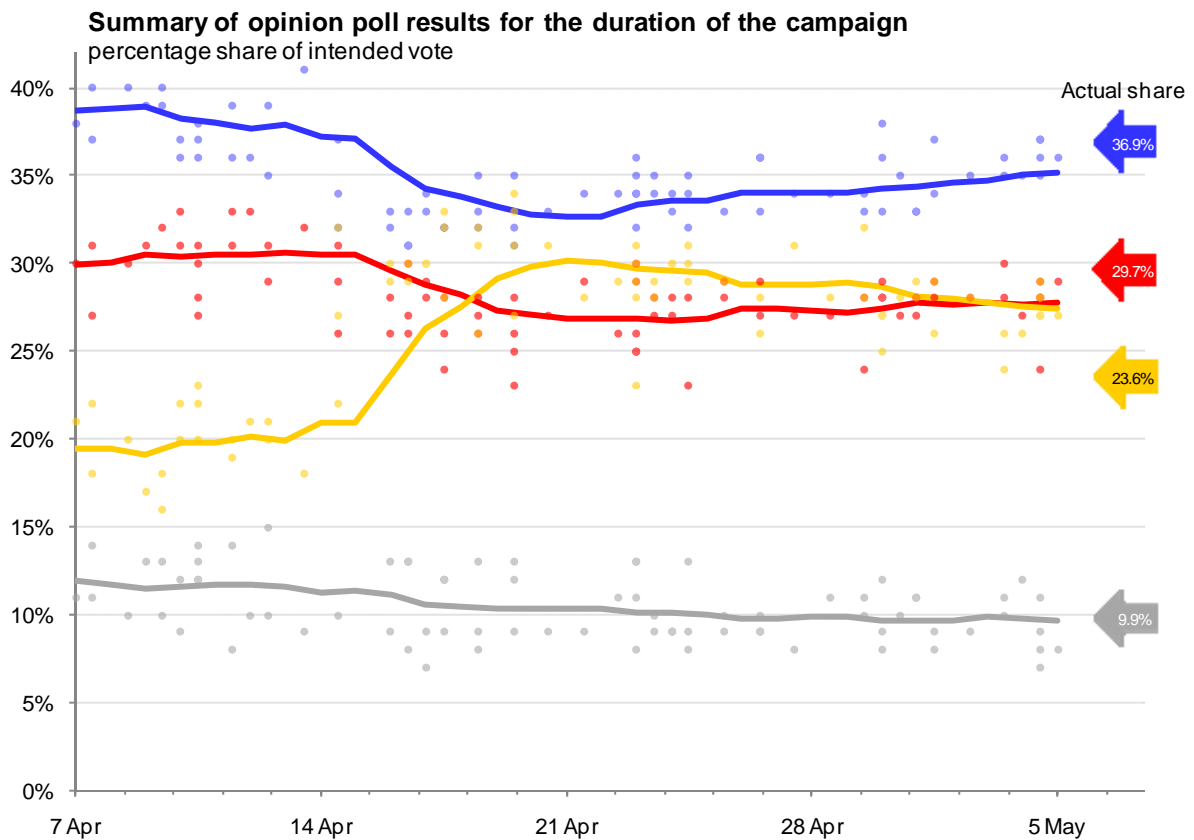
May

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	The four main parties in Scotland and Wales went head-to-head in two separate TV debates
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	
Wednesday	5	
Thursday	6	Polling day
Friday	7	The election results in a hung Parliament, with the Conservatives gaining the largest number of seats
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	Gordon Brown resigns as Prime Minister; The Queen asks David Cameron to form a new government, in coalition with the Liberal Democrats

16.2 Opinion polls

The increased number and frequency of opinion polls in this general election campaign enables the major shifts in voting intention that occurred to be tracked. Summarised below are results from 92 polls from nine different polling companies for the period of the election campaign. All results given are for Great Britain.

Results of all these polls for the three main parties and others (in grey) are illustrated below. Individual poll results are given as single dots, the lines are seven day averages and the election day results are for comparison. Dates are based on the midpoint of the fieldwork for each poll.



A general point to note is the innate variability in the results from individual polls. Nine different polling companies means there is a wider range of methodology and hence more scope for variations linked to this. More fundamentally, they are sample surveys most of which include between one and two thousands responses. However well such samples are chosen they will always be subject to some sample variation – voting intentions from the sample may not accurately reflect those of the entire population at the time. This is down to pure chance. The sample chosen randomly may include a disproportionate number of supporters of one party. The impact of this sample variation falls as the sample size grows. Polling companies generally quote a margin of error of $\pm 3\%$ points for a sample size of around 1,000. This assumes a genuinely random and representative selection and no other biases.

The seven day averages filter out some of this statistical ‘noise’ as there can only be large and/or consistent shifts in poll results over a number of days. They lag behind any step-changes in voting intentions. Such changes are highly unusual, but the reaction to the first televised election debate on the evening of April 15th provided one. Percentage support for the Liberal Democrats was previously in the high-teens or low twenties with only a very slight upward trend. The first polls carried out after this debate put Liberal Democrat support at around the 30% mark and this did not fall to consistently below 30% for another 10 days. Both the other main parties saw a dip in their support, but the fall in Conservative support was slightly greater at 4-5% points compared to around 3-4% points for Labour. More

significantly it gave the Liberal Democrats higher poll ratings than Labour for the first time in a quarter of a century.¹³

There was no other shift in opinion in the campaign on anything like this scale. In the three weeks from the first televised debate to polling day support for the Conservatives increased by around 2.5% points. Support for the Liberal Democrats fell by a similar amount and support for Labour increased by around a single point. The polls indicated that Labour had regained a consistent but slight lead over the Liberal Democrats in the last few days of the campaign.

The Conservative lead over Labour (based on the seven day averages) fell to below 6% points during the middle of April. It increased consistently over the final two weeks of the campaign and reached an average of 7.4% points in the final week. This was only slightly higher than the 7.2% point gap in shares of the vote in the election.

So-called 'Bigotgate' (28 April) had no noticeable negative impact on Labour's poll ratings, but the party was already at a relatively low level and it did not pick up much support in the last couple of weeks.

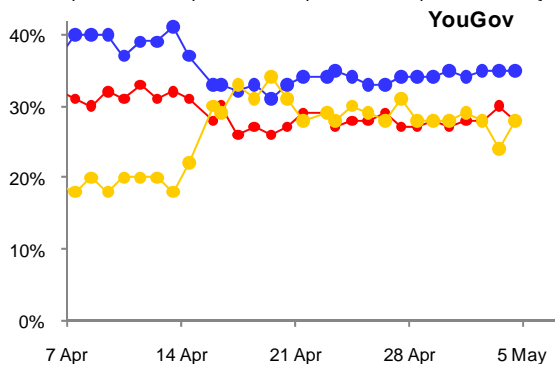
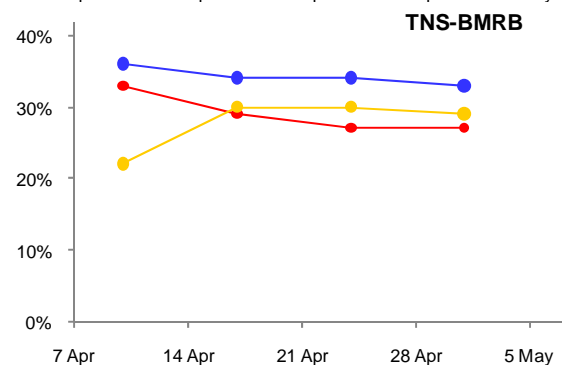
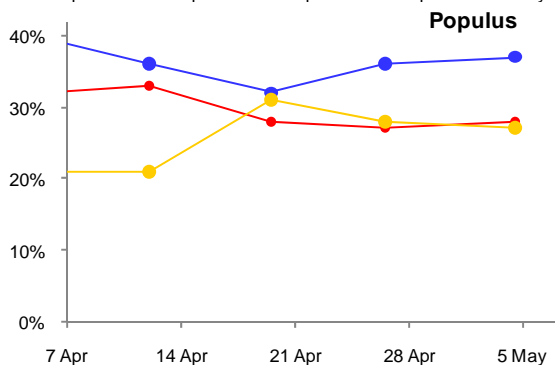
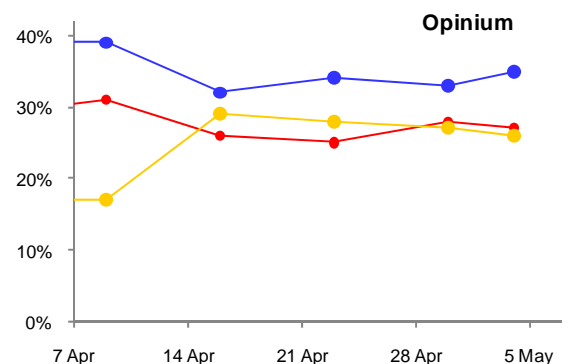
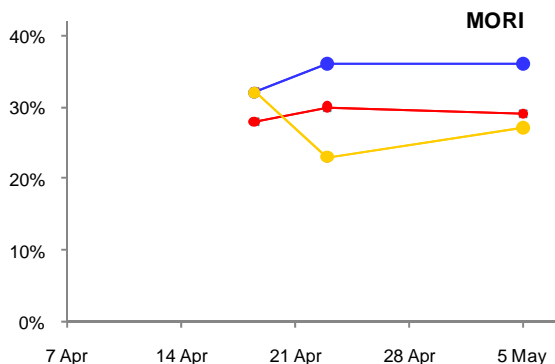
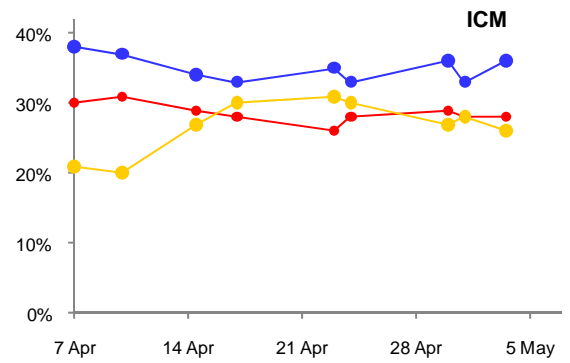
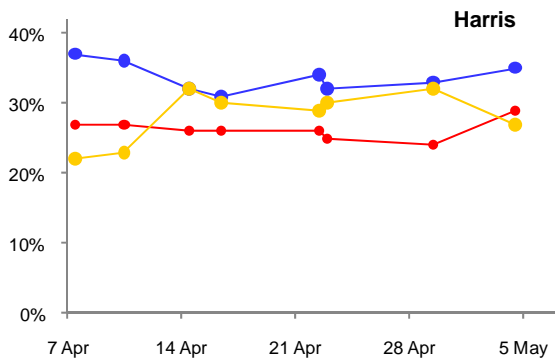
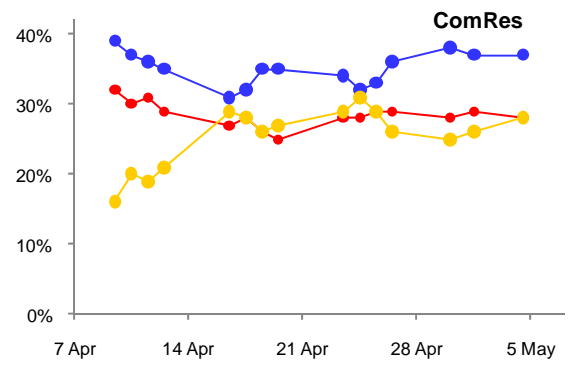
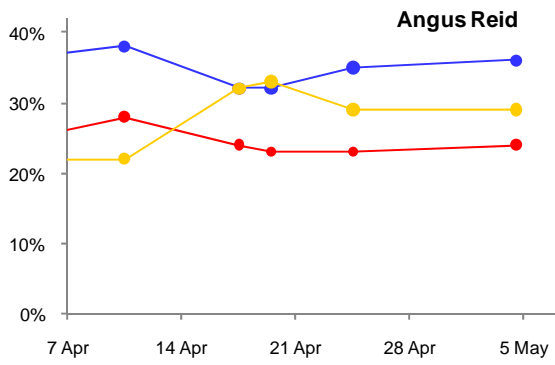
Support for the Conservatives in campaign opinion polls varied from 31% to 41%. Their lead over Labour varied from 3 to 12% points. Labour's poll ratings varied from 23% to 33%. The Liberal Democrat's rating varied from 16% to 34%. They were ranked in second or second equal place on 39 of 92 polls and first/first equal on six polls. Five polls put the gap between first and third place at 4% points, all were taken in the week after the first televised debate.

Results from individual polling companies

The next two pages look at trends in support for the three main parties recorded by each polling company. These cover a large variety of poll frequency, sample sizes, dates, durations of fieldwork and methodologies. Some of the key points are:

- The largest average Conservative lead over Labour (10% points) and lowest average Labour rating were recorded by Angus Reid.
- TNS-BMRB results had the lowest average lead for the Conservatives (5% points). They conducted four polls during the campaign each of which was carried out over a whole week.
- All polls put Labour in third place immediately after the first televised debate.
- All companies that covered the whole campaign had the Liberal Democrats finishing on a higher rating than they started and the Conservatives slightly down. Only Harris has Labour finishing on a higher rating than that at the start of the campaign.
- YouGov carried out polls on virtually every day of the campaign and hence their results give a great deal of detail as well as a consistent methodology. Their results depict most clearly the fall in Liberal Democrat support from its peak in mid-April. Their daily polls recorded little consistent change in support for any of the three main parties in the final two weeks of the campaign.

¹³ Based on Guardian/ICM poll ratings: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2009/oct/21/icm-poll-data-labour-conservatives>



Comparison with the final result

The opinion polls cover Great Britain where on election day the Conservatives took 36.9% of the vote, Labour 29.7%, the Liberal Democrats 23.6% and other parties 9.9%. Compared to this, opinion polls in the final days of the campaign indicated lower levels of support for the Conservative and Labour and higher levels of support for the Liberal Democrats. Clearly these polls were taken before election day so a direct comparison is a harsh test. There could have been shifts in public opinion between the final polls and the election. However, if opinion polls are to be used to predict the composition of the House of Commons after the election then the final poll results before election day ought to be compared to vote shares. The [British Polling Council](#) has done this for its members – the nine companies included here. According to them the polls just before the 2005 General Election were the most accurate ever. The 2010 polls were less accurate but ‘told the main story of the 2010 election.’¹⁴ A comparison is summarised below.

Final opinion polls results compared to the election result

Higher than election	Angus Reid, TNS-BMRB (29%) ComRes, YouGov (28%) Harris, Ipsos MORI, Populus (27%) ICM, Opinium (26%)		
Same as election	ComRes, Populus 37%	Conservatives 36.9%	Labour 29.7%
			Liberal Democrat 23.6%
Lower than election	Angus Reid, ICM, Ipsos MORI (36%) YouGov, Opinium, Harris (35%) TNS-BMRB (33%)	Harris, Ipsos MORI (29%) ComRes, Populus, ICM, YouGov (28%) Opinium, TNS-BMRB (27%) Angus Reid (24%)	

The fieldwork dates for the final polls varied from 29 April-4 May for TNS-BMRB to 4-5 May for the final ComRes, Angus Reid, Populus, YouGov, Harris and Ipsos MORI polls. Overall the final Ipsos MORI and ICM polls were closest across all three main parties with an aggregate difference of 5% points. The final TNS-BMRB was furthest away (12% points) but this can be explained in part by the dates of their fieldwork. Politicalbetting.com looked at all polling companies including those outside the British Polling Council and found that a poll carried out in early May by Indian company RNB Research was the most accurate with an aggregate error of 4.2% points.¹⁵ The play of chance, via sample variation, should be borne in mind when drawing conclusions from these types of comparisons.

The consistent gap between the final poll ratings of the Labour Party and their share of the vote raise the possibility that there is a systematic bias or error in the polls. The last time this was raised in a major way was following the 1992 General Election. The Conservative Party was seeking a fourth term, but was behind in the polls. On election day it gained 42.8% of the vote in Great Britain, but its final poll ratings were around 5% points lower than this. The similarity with the Labour Party in 2010 is strong in some respects, but less so in others such as the size of the ‘under reporting’, levels of support and of course the final result. Since 1992, polling companies have changed their methodologies, particularly how they adjust for

¹⁴ <http://www.britishpollingcouncil.org/press100508.html>

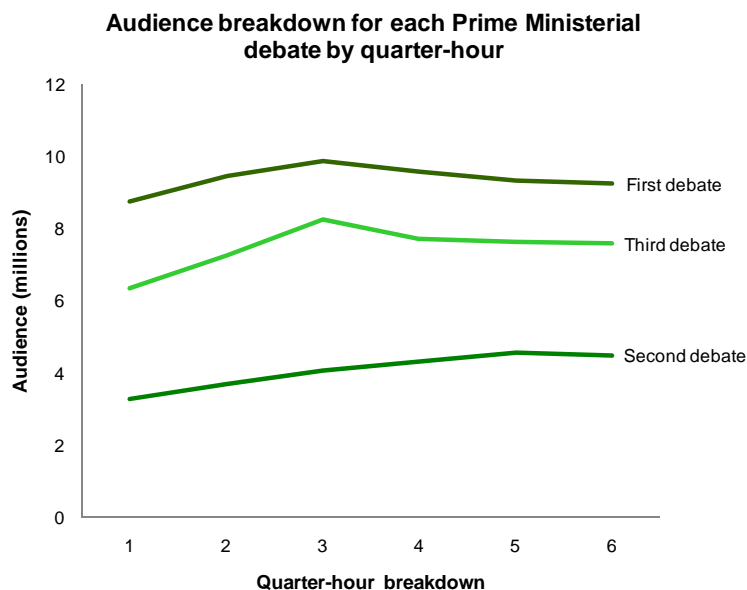
¹⁵ <http://www2.politicalbetting.com/index.php/the-pb-2010-polling-league-table/>

non-response and allow for factors such as likelihood to vote and past voting patterns. This had improved the accuracy of final polls up to 2005, but the 2010 result, the impact of the televised debates and a coalition Government could all mean further changes are needed in how polls are put together, to more accurately reflect the current political situation.

16.3 Leadership debates

For the first time in British politics, the leaders of each of the three main parties took part in Prime Ministerial Debates during the general election campaign. Each debate ran for ninety minutes, and was broadcast weekly by ITV, BSkyB and the BBC over three successive Thursday evenings, starting on 15 April. The first half of each debate focused on a particular topic - domestic affairs, foreign affairs and the economy respectively - with the second half allowing for a discussion of general issues, with questions picked from the audience. They took place in various locations across the UK– the first in Manchester, the second Bristol and the final debate was in Leicester.

They were the first such debates to be broadcast live in the run-up to a UK election, with average viewing figures across all the stations they were broadcast on of 9.4 million, 4 million and 8.1million for each debate respectively. Even though the second debate only averaged 4 million viewers across the television networks, it gave Sky News its biggest ever peak audience of 4.6 million.


























The first debate was the most popular, with a peak audience of 9.9 million viewers, as opposed to 4.6 million for the second and 8.3 million for the final debate. According to Ipsos MORI, the public thought that the leader debates would be important in determining how they voted. Three-fifths (60%) said the performances of Brown, Cameron and Clegg in the debates were important in helping them to decide who to vote for.

In addition, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland had their own television debates, between the main party leaders from each country. Scotland and Wales each held three debates, whilst Northern Ireland staged two.

17 Selected newspaper and magazine editorial comment

Newspaper editorials – summary of parties supported

Daily newspapers			Sunday newspapers		
Guardian	LD		Express	Con	
Independent	LD/Lab		Observer	LD	
Telegraph	Con		Independent	LD/Lab	
Daily Express	Con		Mail	Con	
Daily Mail	Con		Telegraph	Con	
Sun	Con		Mirror	Lab	
Mirror	Lab		News of the World	Con	
Financial Times	Con		Times	Con	
Times	Con		People	None	
Daily Star	None		Scotland on Sunday	LD	
Daily Record	Lab		Magazines		
Herald	None		Economist	Con	
Scotsman	None		New Statesman	LD/Lab	
Western Mail	None		Spectator	Con	
Belfast Telegraph	None				

17.1 Daily newspapers

Guardian 30/04/2010 *The liberal moment has come*

If the Guardian had a vote it would be cast enthusiastically for the Liberal Democrats. But under our discredited electoral system some people may – hopefully for the last time – be forced to vote tactically.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/apr/30/the-liberal-moment-has-come>

Independent 05/05/2010 *This historic opportunity must not be missed*

there is a strong case for progressively minded voters to lend their support to the Liberal Democrats wherever there is a clear opportunity for that party to win. Yet in those constituencies where there is likely to be a close fight between Labour and the Conservatives, there is an equally strong case for voters to cast their ballot to keep out a Tory party which incarnates this discredited "business as usual" approach to politics.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-this-historic-opportunity-must-not-be-missed-1962527.html>

Telegraph 04/05/2010 *Only a Tory government can restore nation's fortunes*

Difficult times lie ahead for Britain. We believe that only a Conservative government can restore the nation's fortunes.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/election-2010/7678946/General-Election-2010-Only-a-Tory-government-can-restore-nations-fortunes.html>

Daily Express 05/05/2010 *Cameron has earned the right to lead our nation*

This newspaper's attitude towards politicians and their parties is largely dictated by how they measure up to the time-honoured values of its readers: a belief in fair play, hard work, strong law and order, patriotism and support for the family. According to all these values and more David Cameron has earned the right to govern. We urge you to give him a mandate to get Britain going in the right direction again.

<http://www.express.co.uk/ourcomments/view/173265/Cameron-has-earned-the-right-to-lead-our-nation->

Daily Mail 05/05/2010 *Vote decisively to stop Britain walking blindly into disaster*

the Mail urges readers to vote Conservative tomorrow. David Cameron is the best and perhaps the only hope on offer for Britain. And in this tightest of contests, he will need every last vote he can get. Don't waste yours

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1272501/GENERAL-ELECTION-2010-Vote-DECISIVELY-stop-Britain-walking-disaster.html>

Sun 06/05/2010 *Can Britain take five more years of hard Labour?*

The Tories have earned their chance. Whether you are voting for the first time, or have backed Labour in the past, we believe the modern Conservative Party deserves your vote. ... if you want a better Britain, and if you feel that hope is better than despair, join The Sun in placing your trust in David Cameron today.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/election2010/article2961073.ece>

Mirror 06/05/2010 ***Be smart, for your children's sake. Vote Labour***

We don't need to like or love Mr Brown to vote Labour. We do need, however, to acknowledge the incontrovertible truth that we're better off under him and Labour, the nation's future safer with Labour – so don't gamble on Cameron's untrustworthy Tories. We strongly urge a vote for Labour today to avoid waking up tomorrow to the nightmare of the political heir of Maggie Thatcher and John Major sneaking into Downing Street.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/05/06/be-smart-for-your-children-s-sake-vote-labour-115875-22237064/>

Financial Times 03/05/2010 ***The case for change in the UK***

Britain needs a stable and legitimate government to navigate its fiscal crisis and punch its weight abroad. On balance, the Conservative party best fits the bill.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bd4e693c-56df-11df-aa89-00144feab49a.html>

Times 01/05/2010 ***Vote of confidence***

The economy is broken and so is politics. It is time for a change, in both the philosophy and the style of government. It is time for us to believe in the power of the individual, the strength of society and the unique promise of this country. Labour is tired, defensive and ruinously reliant on higher government spending. David Cameron has shown the fortitude, judgment and character to lead this country back to a healthier, stronger future. It is time, once again, to vote Conservative.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article7113404.ece

Daily Star 04/05/2010 ***Your vote is so vital***

Listen to all parties and their policies. Make sure you know what they stand for. And then put your X in the right box. Britain needs you to elect the best man for the job.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/posts/view/133703/Your-vote-is-so-vitalYour-vote-is-so-vitalYour-vote-is-so-vital>

Daily Record 06/05/2010 ***It's your future***

Values and vision are what this election boils down to. Labour's are clear. But Cameron offers nothing, especially for Scotland.... This will be the closest election since 1992. Every seat counts. Every vote counts. Scotland has 59 seats at Westminster. That's 59 chances to save Britain from the nightmare of Cameron and Osborne on Downing Street. Make sure your vote counts.

<http://blogs.dailyrecord.co.uk/recordview/2010/05/its-your-future.html>

Herald 05/05/2010 ***All to play for in this make-or-break poll***

The Herald does not presume to tell its readers how to vote. All we would say is this: listen to your head as well as your heart. Above all, go out and vote. There is too much riding on this make-or-break poll to sit at home and do nothing.

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/all-to-play-for-in-this-make-or-break-poll-1.1025217>

Scotsman 05/05/2010 ***Vote for a new era***

The Scotsman regrettably finds itself in the unusual position of not being able to endorse any of the big four parties with any enthusiasm...You must ask who offers most to a new parliament and who can help bring refreshing change. Or who will just give you more of the same? If you have a candidate who ticks the first two boxes, no matter who they represent, give them your vote.

<http://news.scotsman.com/opinion/Vote-for-a-new-era.6272135.jp>

Western Mail 06/05/2010 ***Today, you chart the course for a generation***

The Western Mail isn't in the business of telling its readers how to vote. ... Wales and the rest of Britain can have a great future - but what that future looks like isn't up to the Western Mail, or even to the politicians. It's up to you.

Belfast Telegraph 05/05/2010 ***Time to cast off the blinkers***

The Belfast Telegraph will not be supporting any particular party in Northern Ireland at this election. ... There is hope that cross-community, imaginative, taboo-breaking ideas and thinking can continue to emerge and when they do that they find fertile, not barren ground, on which to grow. For that reason alone we urge you not to abandon the democratic process. Turn out tomorrow and vote. Keep in the game so to speak, for we may even win it in the end.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/viewpoint/editors-viewpoint-time-to-cast-off-the-blinkers-14793327.html>

17.2 Sunday newspapers

Express on Sunday 02/05/2010 ***Vote Cameron or surrender our country to ruin and indecision***

As things stand the choice is very clear. A vote for David Cameron 's Conservatives is the quickest way to get Britain moving again. A strong Tory administration will be able to make the changes and repair the damage done by Labour. A vote for David Cameron and his party will prove that Britain is back in business.

<http://www.express.co.uk/ourcomments/view/172748/General-Election-2010-Vote-Cameron-or-surrender-our-country-to-ruin-and-indecision>

The Observer 02/05/2010 ***Nick Clegg is the candidate of change***

There is only one party on the ballot paper that, by its record in the old parliament, its manifesto for the new one and its leader's performance in the campaign, can claim to represent an agenda for radical, positive change in politics. That party is the Liberal Democrats. There is only one way clearly to endorse that message and that is to vote Liberal Democrat.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/may/01/liberal-democrats-endorsement-observer>

Independent on Sunday 02/05/2010 ***Vote for change. Real change.***

if you believe that we are on the cusp of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, then join with us, and vote for the change that really matters. Use your democratic right to enhance the democratic rights of all. Vote for a hung parliament, and a better, fairer, greener Britain may just be ours.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-vote-for-change-real-change-1960288.html>

Mail on Sunday 02/05/2010 ***Who can you trust to clear up this mess?***

Britain needs strong Government, not weak. Fewer politicians, not more. One purpose, not a coalition of the weak and the weary in uneasy alliance with the whimsical. ... For all these reasons Mr Cameron and the Conservatives should be trusted with your vote.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-1270380/Who-trust-clear-mess.html>

Sunday Telegraph 02/05/2010 ***The only choice for Britain***

David Cameron has, over the course of the election debates, come to look the part as prime minister. But to make the changes that Britain needs, he and his party must have the mandate to govern. A hung parliament would be fatally prone to haggling, horse-trading and indecision, with the resulting coalition – of whatever stripe – unable to take the bold and difficult decisions that will be needed. The best choice for Britain is a Conservative government with a strong majority. But no one should underestimate the scale of the task it will face.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/election-2010/7664142/The-only-choice-for-Britain.html>

Sunday Mirror 02/05/2010 ***Nightmare... on Downing Street***

Your vote on Thursday is about your future, your children's future and the future of our nation. It is not a time to punish Gordon Brown. Use your vote carefully - where Labour have no chance of getting in, vote Lib Dem to keep Cam out. Voting for your first choice could unwittingly let your worst nightmare in.... here is only one serious answer to the challenges that lie ahead. That is Labour.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/05/02/nightmare-on-downing-st-115875-22227550/>

News of the World 02/05/2010 ***Time for a leader of vision***

A hung Parliament, triggering a coalition government, is the worst of all possible results. And the world is watching for that weakness, forcing a run on the Pound and on shares that will send interest rates and mortgages soaring and savings and pensions plummeting. But all that can be avoided. Britain is desperate for change. By Friday, David Cameron could begin rebuilding everything we hold dear. Your vote on Thursday has never been more precious.

Sunday Times 02/05/2010 ***Tories deserve a chance to govern***

The Tories are articulating the most dynamic vision for Britain at a time of economic crisis. The dividing line in this election is an old one: between a Labour party veering back to its old ways and believing big government is best and a Tory party that wants a smaller state and greater individual freedom. ... Britain needs a change of government on Thursday and a decisive outcome. This can only mean that the best solution will be an outright Conservative victory.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article7113942.ece

The People 02/05/2010 ***Time for leaders to be serving this country together***

It is not for a politically independent newspaper to lecture readers on how you should vote. So you will already know that a balanced Parliament can only be brought about by tactical voting in certain marginal constituencies. ...To get a balanced Parliament and coalition government means voting Labour in any constituency where the party is a close second to the Tories. And voting Lib Dem everywhere it is a close second.

<http://www.people.co.uk/news/2010/05/02/good-balance-93463-22227892/>

Scotland on Sunday 02/05/2010 ***Backing the Lib Dems is real vote for change***

Proportional representation will mean a visible end to the old yah-boo system and will force politicians to mature. Consensus politics is not weak politics, but enforces a necessary realism about what can be possible. So, in the hope that new faces can bring about new politics, and that the economic crisis can be tackled with maturity and responsibility, energy and vision, let's get the Lib Dems as many seats as we can.

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/opinion/Backing-the-LibDems-.6267222.jp>

17.3 Magazines

Economist 29/04/2010 ***Who should govern Britain***

in this British election the overwhelming necessity of reforming the public sector stands out. ... The Conservatives, for all their shortcomings, are keenest to do that; and that is the main reason why we would cast our vote for them. Mr Cameron is much closer to answering the main question facing Britain than either of his rivals is. In this complicated, perhaps inevitably imperfect election, he would get our vote.

http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=16007299

New Statesman 04/05/2010 ***All change please, the old order terminates here***

A tactical vote on Thursday 6 May will help to prevent a Conservative victory. It will also, in this most volatile and unpredictable of elections, be a vote for the genuine change that, in its current state, Labour cannot deliver on its own. Consequently, in constituencies where the Lib Dems stand the best chance of defeating the Conservatives, voters should offer their support to Nick Clegg's party. And in those seats where Labour remains in first or second place, we encourage our readers to cast a positive vote for it. That way lies our best chance of seizing this progressive moment.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/uk-politics/2010/05/labour-liberal-progressive>

Spectator 07/04/2010 ***The case for Cameron***

The sheer scale and variety of Labour's failures may impel voters to remove the party from office, but this reason to vote Tory is eclipsed by another, far more important one. And that is the case for David Cameron. ... Perhaps Mr Cameron's two greatest attributes are calmness in a crisis and versatility.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/politics/all/5896233/the-case-for-cameron.shtml>

18 Tables

18.1 Votes for all parties and candidates - UK

18.2 England: voting by constituency

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18.9 Seats by marginality

18.1 Votes for all parties and candidates – UK

Summary of votes in the United Kingdom

Comparisons are with 2005 results, using notional data for revised boundaries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Party/Description	Votes					MPs elected			Lost deposits	Average Share ^(a)
	Number	% share	2005%	Change	Candidates	Elected	Change			
Conservative	10,703,654	36.1%	32.4%	+3.7%	631	306	+96	2	37.0%	
Labour	8,606,517	29.0%	35.2%	-6.2%	631	258	-90	5	29.7%	
Liberal Democrats	6,836,248	23.0%	22.0%	+1.0%	631	57	-5	0	23.6%	
United Kingdom Independence Party	919,471	3.1%	2.2%	+0.9%	558	-	-	459	3.6%	
British National Party	564,321	1.9%	0.7%	+1.2%	338	-	-	266	3.7%	
Scottish National Party	491,386	1.7%	1.5%	+0.1%	59	6	-	0	19.9%	
Green Party	285,612	1.0%	1.0%	-0.1%	335	1	+1	328	1.8%	
Independent	182,299	0.6%	0.4%	+0.2%	306	1	-	291	1.3%	
Sinn Fein	171,942	0.6%	0.6%	-0.1%	17	5	-	4	26.9%	
Democratic Unionist Party	168,216	0.6%	0.9%	-0.3%	16	8	-1	0	28.3%	
Plaid Cymru	165,394	0.6%	0.6%	-0.1%	40	3	+1	11	11.3%	
Social Democratic & Labour Party	110,970	0.4%	0.5%	-0.1%	18	3	-	2	16.5%	
Ulster Conservatives and Unionists	102,361	0.3%	0.5%	-0.1%	17	-	-1	2	16.3%	
English Democrats	64,826	0.2%	0.1%	+0.2%	107	-	-	106	1.3%	
Alliance Party	42,762	0.1%	0.1%	+0.0%	18	1	+1	10	6.3%	
Respect Party	33,251	0.1%	0.3%	-0.1%	11	-	-1	8	6.8%	
Traditional Unionist Voice	26,300	0.1%	-	-	10	-	-	2	7.3%	
Speaker	22,860	0.1%	0.1%	+0.0%	1	1	-	0	47.3%	
Christian Party	18,622	0.1%	-	-	71	-	-	71	0.6%	
Independent Community and Health Concern	16,150	0.1%	0.1%	-0.0%	1	-	-1	0	31.7%	
Independent Save Our Green Belt	12,174	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	0	27.0%	
Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition	11,913	0.0%	-	-	37	-	-	37	0.8%	
National Front	10,784	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	17	-	-	17	1.5%	
Buckinghamshire Campaign For Democracy	10,331	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	0	21.4%	
Monster Raving Loony Party	7,510	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	27	-	-	27	0.6%	
Socialist Labour Party	7,196	0.0%	0.1%	-0.1%	23	-	-	23	0.8%	
Liberal	6,781	0.0%	0.1%	-0.0%	5	-	-	4	3.1%	
Blaenau Gwent People's Voice	6,458	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	0	19.9%	
Christian Peoples Alliance	6,276	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	17	-	-	17	0.8%	
Mebyon Kernow	5,379	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	6	-	-	6	1.9%	
[Candidates giving no description]	5,329	0.0%	0.1%	-0.1%	24	-	-	24	0.5%	
Lincolnshire Independents	5,311	0.0%	-	-	3	-	-	2	3.3%	
Mansfield Independent Forum	4,339	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	0	9.0%	
Socialist Alternative Party	3,298	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	4	-	-	4	1.9%	
Trust	3,233	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	3.1%	
Scottish Socialist Party	3,157	0.0%	0.2%	-0.1%	10	-	-	10	0.8%	
People Before Profit	2,936	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	0	7.7%	
The Macclesfield Independent	2,590	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	0	5.2%	
Bromsgrove Independent Conservative	2,182	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	4.2%	
Local Liberals People Before Politics Party	1,964	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	4.8%	
Alliance for Green Socialism	1,581	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	6	-	-	6	0.6%	
Social Democratic Party	1,551	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	1.7%	
Bushra Irfan of Blackburn	1,424	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	3.1%	
Pirate Party UK	1,348	0.0%	-	-	9	-	-	9	0.3%	
Staffordshire Independent Group	1,208	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	3.0%	
Common Sense Party	1,173	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	1.3%	
Tendring First	1,078	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	2.5%	
Solihull and Meriden Residents' Association	977	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	0.9%	
Communist Party of Britain	947	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	6	-	-	6	0.4%	
Democratic Labour Party	842	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	2.3%	
English Independence Party	803	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	1	-	-	1	1.8%	
Democratic Nationalist	753	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	1.0%	
Save King George Hospital	746	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	1.5%	
Workers' Revolutionary Party	738	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	7	-	-	7	0.2%	
Peace Party, non-violence, justice, environment	737	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	3	-	-	3	0.4%	
Independent Voice for Halifax	722	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	1.7%	
Animal Protection Party	675	0.0%	-	-	4	-	-	4	0.3%	
Middle England Party	616	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.9%	
Christian Movement for Great Britain	598	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	0.7%	
New Millennium Bean	558	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	1	-	-	1	1.8%	
Islam Zinda Baad Platform	545	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	1	-	-	1	1.2%	
Unity for Peace and Socialism	494	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	1.0%	
Impact Party	477	0.0%	-	-	3	-	-	3	0.3%	
A Vote Against MP Expense Abuse	475	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.9%	
The Best of a Bad Bunch	474	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	0.5%	
Justice & Anti-Corruption Party	427	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	0.5%	
Cornish Democrats	396	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.9%	
Independents to Save Queen Mary's Hospital	393	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.9%	
Reform 2000	379	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.9%	
Cambridge Socialists	362	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.7%	
Jannen Will Put Brent North First	333	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.6%	
Community Need Before Private Greed	332	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.8%	
People's National Democratic Party	331	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	1.0%	
Independents Federation UK	327	0.0%	-	-	4	-	-	4	0.2%	
No candidate deserves my vote	327	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.7%	
Northampton - Save Our Public Services	325	0.0%	-	-	1	-	-	1	0.8%	
Equal Parenting Alliance	319	0.0%	-	-	2	-	-	2	0.3%	

Party/Description	Votes				MPs elected		Lost deposits	Average Share ^(a)
	Number	% share	2005%	Change	Candidates	Elected		
You Party	319	0.0%	-	-	2	-	2	0.4%
Citizens for Undead Rights and Equality	317	0.0%	-	-	4	-	4	0.2%
The Common Good	305	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	1	-	1	0.7%
City Independent	303	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.9%
The True English (Poetry) Party	298	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.7%
Scottish Jacobite Party	290	0.0%	-	-	2	-	2	0.3%
For Freedom and Responsibility	270	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.5%
Radical Reform Group	266	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.5%
Independent People Together	265	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.7%
Justice Party	265	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	1	-	1	0.6%
Your Right to Democracy Party Limited	264	0.0%	-	-	3	-	3	0.2%
Get Snouts Out TheTrough	259	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.6%
Basingstoke Common Man	247	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.5%
Independent Leave The EU Alliance	236	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.4%
Go Mad and Vote For Yourself Party	233	0.0%	0.0%	+0.0%	1	-	1	0.5%
Integrity UK	230	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.7%
Clause 28, Children's Protection Christian Democrats	217	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	1	-	1	0.4%
United Voice	209	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.4%
Fancy Dress Party	207	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.4%
Direct Democracy Party	202	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.5%
The Science Party	197	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.4%
New Independent Conservative Chelsea and Fulham	196	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.5%
Independent Ealing Acton Communities Public Services	190	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.4%
Libertarian Party	182	0.0%	-	-	2	-	2	0.2%
Money Reform Party	173	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.4%
Socialist Equality Party	170	0.0%	-	-	2	-	2	0.2%
Putting the People of Battersea First	168	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.3%
Campaign for Independent Politicians	167	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.4%
Communist League	158	0.0%	-	-	2	-	2	0.2%
Reduce Tax on Beer Party	153	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.3%
Animals Count	149	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.3%
Socialist Party	143	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	1	-	1	0.3%
Scotland Against Crooked Lawyers	138	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.3%
Tamsin Omond to the Commons	123	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Scrap Members Allowances	119	0.0%	-	-	2	-	2	0.1%
The New Party	118	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Bus-Pass Elvis Party	112	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Magna Carta Party	112	0.0%	-	-	3	-	3	0.1%
Anticapitalists -Workers' Power	109	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.3%
Medway Independent	109	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Cut the Deficit Party	107	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Lawfulness Trustworthiness and Transparency	100	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Apolitical Democrats	95	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Youth Party	95	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
The Joy of Talk	93	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
National Liberal	93	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Fight for an Anti-War Government	91	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Nationwide Reform Party	84	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Virtue Currency Cognitive Appraisal Party	84	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	1	-	1	0.2%
Alliance for Workers Liberty	75	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Nobody Party	73	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.2%
Wessex Regionalist	62	0.0%	0.0%	-0.0%	1	-	1	0.1%
Land is Power	57	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.1%
Humanity	50	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.1%
The Restoration Party	45	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.1%
A Better Britain for All	35	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.1%
Peoples Party Essex	35	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.1%
All The South Party	31	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.1%
Blue Environment Party	17	0.0%	-	-	1	-	1	0.0%
TOTAL	29,687,604				4,150	650	1,893	

Notes:

(a) Aggregate share of the vote in constituencies where the party stood.

18.7 Highest and lowest shares of the vote by major party**Highest and lowest shares of the vote by major party**

Highest		Lowest		
Conservative				
1	Richmond (Yorks)	62.8%	1 Na h-Eileanan an Iar	4.4%
2	Beaconsfield	61.1%	2 Glasgow East	4.5%
3	Windsor	60.8%	3 Glasgow North East	5.3%
4	North East Hampshire	60.6%	4 Rhondda	6.4%
5	Chelsea and Fulham	60.5%	5 Liverpool, Walton	6.5%
6	Chesham and Amersham	60.4%	6 Glasgow South West	6.6%
7	Maldon	59.8%	7 Dunfermline and West Fife	6.8%
8	Orpington	59.7%	8 Blaenau Gwent	7.0%
9	Maidenhead	59.5%	9 Glasgow North	7.1%
10	Aldridge-Brownhills	59.3%	10 Glasgow Central	7.1%
Labour				
1	Liverpool, Walton	72.0%	1 Westmorland and Lonsdale	2.2%
2	Knowsley	70.9%	2 North Cornwall	4.2%
3	East Ham	70.4%	3 Newbury	4.3%
4	Glasgow North East	68.3%	4 Somerton and Frome	4.4%
5	Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	66.6%	5 Eastbourne	4.8%
6	Bootle	66.4%	6 Lewes	5.0%
7	Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	64.5%	7 Richmond Park	5.0%
8	Liverpool, West Derby	64.1%	8 Guildford	5.1%
9	West Ham	62.7%	9 Taunton Deane	5.1%
10	Birkenhead	62.5%	10 Cheltenham	5.1%
Liberal Democrat				
1	Orkney and Shetland	62.0%	1 Glasgow East	5.0%
2	Westmorland and Lonsdale	60.0%	2 Kilmarnock and Loudoun	7.3%
3	Bath	56.6%	3 Na h-Eileanan an Iar	7.5%
4	Yeovil	55.7%	4 Ynys Môn	7.5%
5	North Norfolk	55.5%	5 Glenrothes	7.7%
6	Twickenham	54.4%	6 Glasgow North East	7.7%
7	Sheffield, Hallam	53.4%	7 Airdrie and Shotts	8.1%
8	Ross, Skye and Lochaber	52.6%	8 West Dunbartonshire	8.1%
9	Lewes	52.0%	9 Barking	8.2%
10	Thornbury and Yate	51.9%	10 Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	8.5%
Plaid Cymru				
1	Dwyfor Meirionnydd	44.3%	1 Newport East	2.1%
2	Arfon	36.0%	2 Brecon and Radnorshire	2.5%
3	Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	35.6%	3 Monmouth	2.7%
Scottish National Party				
1	Na h-Eileanan an Iar	45.7%	1 Edinburgh South	7.7%
2	Banff and Buchan	41.3%	2 East Renfrewshire	8.9%
3	Moray	39.7%	3 Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	9.2%

18.8 Highest and lowest change in shares of the vote by major party

Highest and lowest change in shares of the vote by major party

2005-10, % points, using notional 2005 results

Increases		Falls		
Conservative				
1	Hartlepool	16.7%	1 Westmorland and Lonsdale	-8.1%
2	Montgomeryshire	13.8%	2 Bromsgrove	-7.3%
3	Esher and Walton	13.2%	3 Sheffield, Hallam	-6.6%
4	Crewe and Nantwich	12.9%	4 Folkestone and Hythe	-4.5%
5	Cardiff Central	12.3%	5 Castle Point	-4.3%
6	Camborne and Redruth	12.0%	6 Walthamstow	-4.2%
7	Basingstoke	11.7%	7 Redcar	-4.1%
8	St Ives	11.7%	8 North Norfolk	-3.9%
9	South West Devon	11.6%	9 Maidstone and The Weald	-3.8%
10	Ynys Môn	11.4%	10 Dumfries and Galloway	-3.7%
Labour				
1	Blaenau Gwent	20.1%	1 Barnsley East	-23.9%
2	East Ham	16.8%	2 Buckingham	-20.3%
3	West Ham	10.9%	3 Hemel Hempstead	-18.9%
4	Glenrothes	10.4%	4 Redcar	-18.6%
5	West Dunbartonshire	9.4%	5 Don Valley	-18.6%
6	Edinburgh West	9.1%	6 North West Norfolk	-18.3%
7	Bethnal Green and Bow	8.5%	7 Cannock Chase	-17.9%
8	Paisley and Renfrewshire North	8.3%	8 Selby and Ainsty	-17.1%
9	Paisley and Renfrewshire South	7.0%	9 Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford	-17.1%
10	East Renfrewshire	6.9%	10 Sittingbourne and Sheppey	-17.1%
Liberal Democrat				
1	Redcar	25.0%	1 Buckingham	-18.0%
2	Ashfield	19.5%	2 Orpington	-15.9%
3	Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	17.0%	3 Edinburgh West	-13.6%
4	Dunfermline and West Fife	14.9%	4 Hartlepool	-13.3%
5	Westmorland and Lonsdale	14.1%	5 Montgomeryshire	-12.5%
6	Ceredigion	13.5%	6 Haltemprice and Howden	-10.0%
7	Maidstone and The Weald	13.2%	7 Garston and Halewood	-9.9%
8	Brent Central	13.1%	8 South West Surrey	-9.2%
9	Burnley	12.0%	9 Chesterfield	-9.1%
10	Bosworth	11.7%	10 Midlothian	-9.1%
Plaid Cymru				
1	Cynon Valley	6.8%	1 Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	-10.2%
2	Clwyd West	4.5%	2 Ceredigion	-7.6%
3	Arfon	3.9%	3 Dwyfor Meirionnydd	-6.4%
Scottish National Party				
1	Falkirk	8.9%	1 Banff and Buchan	-9.9%
2	North Ayrshire and Arran	8.0%	2 Dunfermline and West Fife	-8.3%
3	Glasgow East	7.7%	3 Glasgow North East	-3.5%

19 Technical notes, sources and abbreviations

19.1 Sources of data

The 2010 General Election results presented in this Research Paper are the official results as published by the Electoral Commission. Notional 2005 results have been provided by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher at the University of Plymouth. Other historical data are from House of Commons Library data files.

Data for minority ethnic candidates and MPs are from *Operation Black Vote* and the Labour Party.

19.2 Electorates and turnout

Turnout is calculated as valid votes cast as a percentage of the electorate. Spoilt ballots are not included in the calculations. This is the method used in all previous Library Research Papers and most other published sources.

19.3 New constituency boundaries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Constituency boundaries have been redrawn except in Scotland where they were last changed in 2005. As a result of the boundary review there are now 650 House of Commons seats, compared with 646 before the 2010 election.

19.4 By-elections, defections and the Speaker

Comparisons in this paper are with positions after General Elections rather than at the Dissolution of Parliament. For example, Norwich North, which was won (notionally) by Labour in 2005, by the Conservatives at a by-election in 2009, and by Conservatives in 2005, is considered a 'Conservative' gain.

The Speaker is considered separately and not assigned to a political party. His deputies, the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of Ways and Means, stood for parties and are listed as such.

19.5 Thirsk and Malton

Following the death during the campaign of the UKIP candidate the election in Thirsk and Malton was postponed until 27 May 2010. Results for the constituency are included in the tables in this paper.

19.6 Party codes and colours

Each registered party has a denoted code of letters. Colours have been assigned to the major parties. Colours are not always used: for example, in some aggregations, parties other than Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat are combined in grey. The table below details party codes and colours used:

