

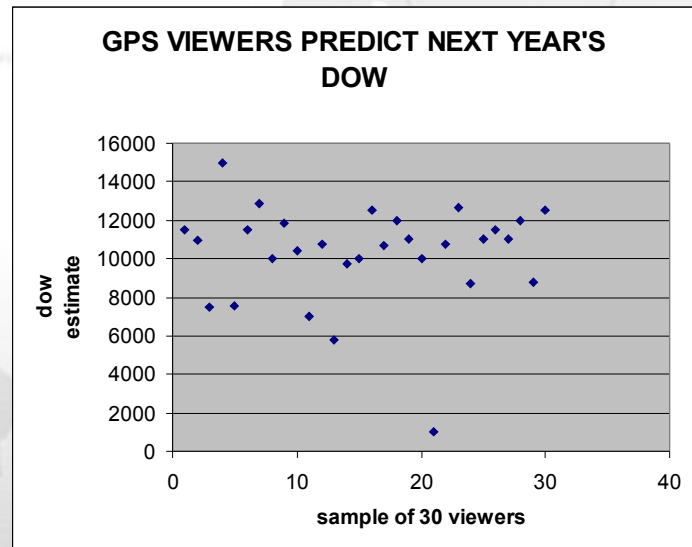


VIEWER VOICES

COMMENTS & ANSWERS TO FAREED'S QUESTION OF THE WEEK
(to remove your name or entire comment please [email](#) webmaster)

This week, we received many responses to the question, "The Dow hit 10,000 this week. The last time we saw 10,000 was a year ago -- where do you think the Dow will be a year from today?"

The mean response was that this time next year, the Dow Jones Industrial Average will be 10284.99. The lowest estimation was 1000 and the highest was 15000 with the bullish viewers outnumbering the bears two-to-one. Some viewers wrote that they didn't view the Dow average as important to the economy. Here is a scatter plot depicting those responses. Below are some of your comments:



The Dow will close out 2010 at 11500. The financial sector will continue to prosper. Corporations will increase profits, but the unemployment rate will remain near 10%. Unless Obama changes policy, the rich will continue to get richer, while the middle class continues to suffer.

[Paul Woodring](#)

There is a perfect storm of catastrophic events coalescing: A bubble in the treasury market, FDIC is near bankruptcy, Medicare is nearly bankrupt, baby boomer generation is about to start drawing on entitlement programs, the dollar is falling while gold is skyrocketing, most states are bankrupt, millions of option ARM mortgages are set to reset soon, the government is printing money at an unsustainable rate creating high inflation and debasing the currency, the consumer will not resume spending, and the toxic assets still remain on the banks balance sheets.

We'll likely see the Dow plunge to 1,000, and the Dow to Gold ratio will be in the 1-2 range as the world flees from fiat currencies into the safety of real money: Gold and Silver. As government deficits spiral out of control and the dollar crisis peaks, the end-game for our financial system will be at hand.

[Eric](#)

I indeed am optimistic for the lowering of unemployment and the rising trust in economy and increasing prosperity of many of us....Is the Dow a real indicator for economic wealth? How many more businesses and enterprises not listed at Wall Street are driving wealth and prosperity

by creating jobs. After those who caused downturn, bankruptcy and job-losses have already re-started their \$-bonuses gained for “hot air-bubbles” I do not really see such “indicatorship” in the Dow Jones.

[Hanno Wolfram](#)
Germany

Bank stocks are still being bought up to dotcom type values. Money wants in, but too many trade like sheep and some of the sheep are professionals - Money Markets, etc.

No lessons have been learned. New versions of CODs are in the making. And - my favorite - retention bonuses demanded.

[Alicia Alan](#)
Montpellier, France

I think it will vary some over the next year, but show a steady slow rise.

[Pat Ranney](#)
Millersville, Md.

10,995

[Ashok Kumar](#)
Grand Rapids, MI

A year from now the DJIA will be at 11,500.

[Jerry Nelson](#)

It is inconceivable your show was usurped because of a non story regarding the balloon boy. I protest this treatment as there is nothing relevant here requiring live coverage. A travesty but a true reflection re CNN and its commitment to news relevant to the world today.

[Rik](#)

[Atlanta, Georgia](#)

7,500 it's not over yet, especially when the government is owned by Wall Street, meaning that FASCISM, not democracy, rules.

[Paul Etxeberri](#)

I believe that the Dow will be back down to 7,500 to 8,000 unless the housing and credit crisis is fully addressed. I do not think that we have hit bottom. As long as the Republican Party along with elements of the Democratic party continue to be the party of Wall Street we will never have real and long-lasting reform of our corrupt banking industry.

[Melissa](#)

[Sacramento, California](#)

It doesn't matter. The stock markets are nothing but hot air. The only thing that matters is if people are working and spending

[Anonymous](#)

12,900

[Don White, Jacksonville FL](#)

I have little faith or hope that it will improve much in the next year...at least for most Americans. Wall Street will no doubt have made more money, thanks in large part to the help of the middle class in this country, but I fear that we are headed for another disaster in the next 3-4 years because our Congress simply doesn't have the courage to REGULATE the financial industry.

I predict WS will continue to "boom" and that the Dow will still be at 10,000 in a year. However, it's very likely that when it rises any further, we will be in for another sudden fall....worse than the last one. For that reason, I have reinvested in the market, only with money I can afford to lose and I have completely withdrawn from any financial stocks because I don't trust them and don't respect them. They are leeches on this country and when there is no more "blood" to suck for these folks, they'll move on to another game.

Sincerely yours,

[M Brennan](#)
[Raymond, WA](#)

Dow Jones to rise 3-5% to 10,300-10,500 in one year. Annual range should be 9000 -11,000.

[Peter Mack](#)
[Weston,CT](#)

Who cares what the Dow is? We expect high unemployment. The Dow is not a measure of the health of the economy.

[Gertrude Desjardin, Gainesville FL](#)

I'm predicting that a year from now the Dow will be 11,850; unfortunately, I think unemployment will be 11.5%, and this number will prevent the Dow from climbing higher.

[Christopher Michaelson](#)
[Phoenix, AZ](#)

A year from now, the Dow will go down to 7,000. The current rise in the Dow is artificial because it is led by the revenue growth in the financial sector which is being propped up by the American taxpayer through the Fed and Treasury. So, as Wall Street goes up by picking the pockets of the American people, Main Street gets poorer and goes the other way. I am pessimistic about the economy. I listened to your economic panel. They missed a key point that differentiates this recession from other recessions. The American people have been made considerably poorer due to the precipitous decline in the value of their homes and investments. A key element in the lack of spending and the growth in savings is their need to repair their balance sheets by reducing consumption and paying off debt. So, don't expect a rebirth of spending and consumption no matter how much stimulus is provided. Without this rebirth in spending, corporate revenues will not increase.

[Larry Klaus - Norristown PA](#)

The Dow should grow slowly and sustainably and improve to about 10,700. We need slow, sustained growth in green, industrial and high tech jobs.

[Gene Fleming](#)

Dow Jones 5800, Oct 2010

[Patrick Holden](#)

My guess is 9724.29. However, I really feel that the Dow is a lousy indicator of where the market will be 1 year from now. A far better indicator is the New York Stock Exchange Composite and I have used this as the best indicator since it was started in 1970. I have a variety of reasons why I believe the market will not prosper, but I also believe things will decay to any substantial extent

[Bill Holtzman](#)

Dow in 2010 - 10,015

[Lydia Pulsipher](#)

I think that this deal being made over the Dow hitting 10,000 is being over exaggerated. These companies and corporations are reporting profits and improvements, however, unemployment continues to grow and people are having a harder time than ever finding a job. I think if things continue the way they do that there will be another economic crisis and I hope that next time there will be no bail-out and we can just start over. This is, the last time I checked, how Capitalism is SUPPOSED to work.

[Preston B. \(22, Student @ UW Oshkosh\)](#)

It will be the same, 10,000.

[Roberto](#)

About 12,500 - The DOW measures GLOBAL economic activity, which will grow 12-13%. Unfortunately, unemployment in the US is no longer STRONGLY hitched to the Global economy, because US Multinationals have other places to turn to for labor and skills. US unemployment will still be hovering at 10% a year from now.

The Obama campaign promise to take a serious look at job creation will take on great importance as the 2010 election nears. The Dept. of Labor will for the very first time start to conduct micro- studies of small business job creation, and find out that the shift to 1099-contractor employment posits a huge risk to the tax base. Regulations surrounding "employment" that don't pertain to contractors are making it simpler for small business to use contractors.

[Pierre Pleasanton CA](#)

If the Dow is measured by combining industry profit to expense ratios, it's easy to infer that most ratios improved dramatically because of TARP infusions combined with massive layoffs, making the Dow recovery completely illusory. Prepare for the worst Christmas in American history.

[Fred Slocombe Springfield, IL](#)

Next year, 12,000. God willing, some jobs will come along with its rise. [Nancy](#)

I think the Dow will hit 11,000. Unfortunately, I think main street will have only small gains.

G. Harrell

I believe the dow will remain quite constant with an early lag followed by a middle of the year rally, and finally a return to a little over the 10500 - 11000 range. I believe this because I believe health care reform will be passed including a public option, and wall street replying with an early sell off. Then as the weather warms up and some stimulus money is injected into the economy, more consumer spending which will drive sales and improve the dow index. I also believe unemployment will remain pretty constant until at least the warmer weather appears around the month of May, and it is this that will slow any real sustained growth in the dow.

John

DJI prediction: \$8,700

Jay Marshall

10500

Jawed Iqbal

Ottawa-ON,Canada

I predict 11,000

Patricia Shelden

I estimate the DOW to be 11,500 in October 2010.

[D. Caruso](#)

12,000

[Pm. DesCoteaux, Geneva, Il](#)

I believe that the market will hit 11,000. I am optimistic my nature but history has taught me to keep it real.

[Vincent Buyck](#)

[Detroit, MI USA](#)

8777

[Pradeep Shah](#)

[Chiang Mai , Thailand](#)

While the Dow hitting 10,000 is a major milestone, there are other factors about the economy that people need to observe. Namely, that high unemployment will mean less consumer spending, consumers also have high personal debt and banks are in danger of failing....

[Kevin P. McVicker](#)

General Comments:

All the economists in today's segment agreed that the U.S. must grow its way out of the recession. None of them are taking into account the environmental limits we're bumping up against. Just because the Keynesians are resurgent doesn't mean they provide a real balance to the discredited neoclassicals.

David Froman
Falls Church, Virginia

I am so very frustrated each and every time I hear a Republican say that we are building up the debt every time Pres. Obama speaks of instituting programs most needed by the country.

Yet, on the other hand these very same Republicans have NO qualms about adding more debt to the WARS! The wars we are now involved in are the main reason why we are in this quandary to begin with and they want to add to it!

Am I crazy? Why hasn't any reporter or program on CNN expounded on this very FACT? Why hasn't anyone called out the Republicans on this very important issue? Will you please devote an hour of your program to this very issue, please!

Bernadette Loesch
Laconia, NH

Fareed is the only newsworthy, non-inane, personality on CNN, and this morning you preempted him for more inanity about the balloon boy. Boy, what happened to the once-fine news network? Now the network of morons!

[Leon Kenman](#)

[Glendale, Arizona](#)

Please get that sensationalism off the television and let us see Fareed Zakaria and his intelligent news program.

[Penelope Holbrook](#)

[Albuquerque, New Mexico](#)

This is NOT a negative comment about Fareed Zakaria GPS, but about the stupid decision made by CNN to air an incredibly trivial broadcast about "Balloon boy"; this is NON news! After 15 minutes of self-indulgent drivel I've turned off the TV. At some point the reasonably reputable news organisations need to stop catering to the lowest common denominator of the population and start reporting on the important issues of the day.

[Trudy Kavanagh](#)

[Winfield, British Columbia](#)

Thank you Fareed for the simple comments you just made on TV about the Taliban use of Western "tools" to spread their backwards propaganda. You are right ! they are weak and have no future in this world .

[Mehdi Kaci](#)

All of the left-wing leaders of the Latin American governments are calling for the reinstatement of ousted Honduran leader and 'wanna-be' dictator Manuel Zelaya. Isn't it strange that Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid and even Hillary Clinton have been calling for the same thing? Should this make sense to Americans?

The U.S. State Department has cut off \$70 million in aid to Honduras and has been trying to temporarily shift tourism away from Honduras in a move to leverage Zelaya's return to power. They have even convinced the European Union to cut off \$90 million in aid to Honduras. At the same time, our State Department is promoting the return of American tourism to Cuba and resists trade sanctions against Iran. Isn't it strange?

[Glenn Johansen](#)
[Kailua-Kona, HI](#)

Why didn't your guest take the Reagan shill to task about government spending? Reagan spent huge amounts of federal money on the military. Government spending didn't go down but up. To say that Reagan's deficits don't matter because they were from tax breaks and Obama's do because they're from spending is just outright dishonest. You all should have called him on it!

[Nolen](#)
[Paramount, California](#)

I thought the discussion on this topic fell short... sorry. The white hair guy (sorry don't recall his name) acted like things will get back to normal and jobs will return when we get back to where we were a couple years ago. But the problem is that people were spending money they did not have. This is well documented. The spending binge was fueled by millions of families using these homes as ATM machines and unregulated and irresponsible lending practices. Are we going to return to these conditions? I sure don't think so... we had better not. Your discussion ignored this key issue and invalidates most of your guests arguments.

[Joseph Burke](#)
[Lake Oswego OR](#)

I would like to tell you just how upset I am that CNN chose to focus on the Bubble Boy news conference instead of letting your thought provoking and INTELLIGENT show to run as usual. I look forward to your show every week and I find CNN's choice of programming today to be offensive. Keep up the good work Fareed.

[Jen](#)
[Winnipeg, Manitoba](#)

I would like to thank Mr. Zakaria for the interview with Mr. Tharoor. It has helped me begin to understand relations between India and Pakistan in a way other media has not.

[Patty Ritchie](#)
[Hartsburg, Missouri](#)

Thank you again for the BEST program on all TV. We were upset that 7 minutes of GPS got cut off due to the trivial "balloon boy" news coverage. But we are so thankful that CNN has Fareed on weekly. We wish GPS were a daily program. We hope, every week, that Obama is listening to Fareed, to his guests. Especially folks like Dr. Richard Haass. We Americans want Obama to make the best possible decisions for Afghanistan/Pakistan, no matter how long it takes him. He has our complete support. Fareed, thank you so much for being there, for your intelligence.

[Karen Van Sant](#)
[Glendale, California](#)

I am an avid follower of your program. Today's was good as always, the one on the economy was awesome for the differing points of view and also for your insightful moderation.

My main comment or suggestion is on your segment with Shashi Tharoor. I am from India and really appreciated the piece. Shashi Tharoor is extremely articulate and presented India's case very well. But I would also suggest that you present someone from Pakistan as well as it is only fair for viewers to hear both points of view. I am especially suggesting it as I want India to win her points on merit and not be accused of unfair propaganda. If you had tried to get some Pakistani official to come on your show but it did not materialize, then mentioning it would add increased credibility to your show, great as it already is. Well, those are my two cents. Thank you and your team for all your hard work and keep it up.

Best,
[Priya Rangarajan](#)

CNN should produce more of these types of shows, which allow and seek serious examination of issues. There needs to be more shows that focus on educating people on issues as opposed to examining political dynamics. The more people know the less susceptible they are to manipulation by politicians. Christiane Amanpour's show is also good.

[Elena Fisher](#)
[Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)

Fareed, you were worth waiting for this afternoon. GPS is the only intelligent show on CNN. It gives us an UNUSUAL overview of how America interacts with the rest of the world and how the world perceives us. It is important for America to begin to co-operate positively with all the countries of the World.

[Amy](#)
[Perry, Georgia](#)

...The vast majority of net job growth has come from small businesses over the past 20 years. A sustained recovery cannot take place until government and the press acknowledge this fact and belatedly redirect resources accordingly.

[H. Wilson Beach](#)
[Aliso Viejo, California](#)

I love your show. I find it to be very pragmatic and address the economic issues of the day. While we tend to monitor the Dow and other indices as the bell weather for economic recovery, I think we need to drill down to the real cause of the recession which is the lack of consumer spending and the fact that consumers no longer have the resources to provide the fire for an economic recovery.

How many people are unemployed, not just those who are on the unemployment roles but those who are no longer on the unemployment roles because their benefits are run out. Also, a large number of the population is underemployed, where at one time they had full-time jobs with excellent benefits and now are working part-time with minimal benefits.

One culprit, as identified on Susie Ormond, are the credit card companies. Rates are being increased beyond reasonable amounts making debt repayment even more difficult. I myself have experienced this, especially by Chase. With the Federal Funds Rate at an all time low, I cannot justify credit card interest rates at 29.99%.

Keep up the great work.

Greg Was

What happened to Fareed on Sunday nights?? He's been substituted with Amanpour. This is not necessary. Bring him back!!

Darcy and Ruth

Tarragona, Spain

I very much enjoyed your interview with President Medvedev a few weeks ago. And I've read the Edward Lucas book you recommended. It is a very sobering viewpoint, but I thank you very much for recommending it. One comment, though, on your closing comments about Russia's declining population. Why must we always assume that population has to increase? Why not explore an economic policy for gradual decline?

[John Chittenden](#) [Sherman Oaks, California](#)

Thanks very much for your weekly focus on the paramount issues which face our nation! With the exception of my son who is a business reporter with the Denver Post, you are now my favorite journalist, either in print or broadcast... I am now retired but in the mid 90ties I worked for a bank that was a major player in derivatives. A problem developed in our interest rate swaps book resulting in 4 or 6 successive months of write offs. That was 12 years, or so, ago and by 2007 markets had become far more complex and interconnected and more firms had become too large to fail (or to manage!).

[G. Griffin](#) [Bartlesville, OK](#)

Isn't our whole economy a Ponzi scheme based on a burgeoning world population which is beginning to close in on itself? The ensuing backwash results from large cheap sources of labor disappearing and producers turning back on themselves for a resource almost lost to a nation of entrepreneurs. Everybody wants to tell people what to do, nobody wants (or knows how) to do anything. Its a cultural dilemma among others.

[Molly Cruz](#) [Costa Rica](#)

Recently the UN agency on human rights approved Judge Goldstone's report about the war crimes committed during the Israel's invasion of Gaza. I read the report and I am disappointed that the US voted against it. It will be considered by the UN Security Council in the near future. If the past is any indication, US probably would veto it. I would like to see a panel discussion on the ramifications of such an action considering Mr. Obama's efforts to open communications with the Muslims. So far Israel has defiantly rejected Mr. Obama's request to freeze settlements and Israel cabinet ministers are openly stating that there will not be peace for many years. Palestinian conflict is the engine that is stoking the extremist fires.

[M. Qurashi](#)

Good program as always! Fareed's "What in the World" segment this week reminded me of another comparison. I thought it was interesting that for centuries the western governments have looked down on the people and cultures of the Middle East-and still do, but this has not stopped them from taking their oil or other resources. This does not condone in any way what the terrorists are doing; however, I think we should look at this from another perspective as well.

[Shadieh Mirmobiny](#)
[Folsom, California](#)

Dear Shashi,

I am emailing you from my wife Susan's room at Hospital (she has Terminal cancer). But I watch Fareed's GPS religiously.

I was so impressed by your interview with Fareed, that even under my situation, I wanted to email you to say that I hope ALL OUR INDIAN POLITICIANS LEARN FROM YOUR CLEAR, OBJECTIVE and INTELLIGENT THINKING & EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION ABILITIES.

Kindest Regards,
Debasish (Dave) Samanta
Toronto Canada