

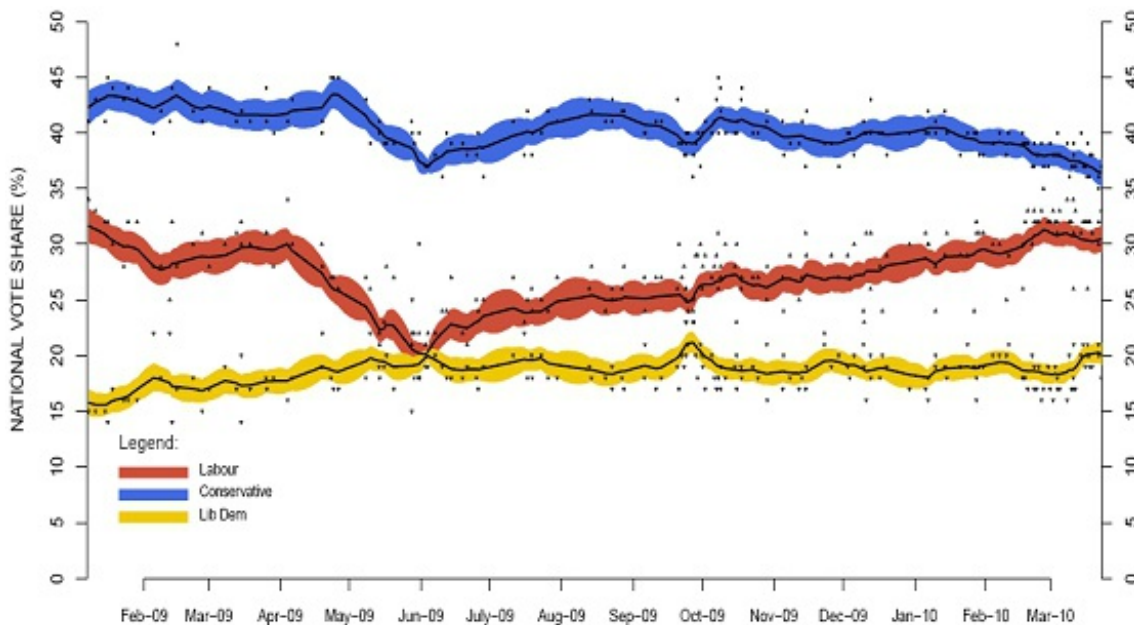
Still a Hung Parliament: Hix-Vivyan Prediction up to 23 March

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We have updated our election prediction model, based on national voting intention results from all polls by YouGov, Ipsos-MORI, Populus, ICM, ComRes and Angus Reid with fieldwork up to and including 23 March.

Here is a figure showing the time trends in our “pooling the polls” analysis. The dots in the figure show the results from the various polls and the shaded areas around the lines are the 95 per cent confidence intervals around the mean standings of the parties. Basically, since the beginning of the year the Conservatives have lost approximately 4 points while Labour and the Lib Dems have gained approximately 2 points each.



Our results suggest that as of 23 March the national standing of the parties was 36.5 per cent for the Conservatives, 30.5 per cent for Labour, and 20.2 per cent for the Lib Dems. What would this mean in terms of seats in the Commons?

The following table shows how these national vote shares might translate into seats under different assumptions: namely, a uniform change in party support across constituencies, compared to a model of how marginal seats in different regions in the country deviate from national-level changes in party support.

Hix/Vivyan Seat Projections for 25 March

Party	Hix-Vivyan pooling-the-polls model		Comparison with other predictions	
	Assuming a uniform swing	Controlling for a regional marginal seat effect	Electoral Calculus Seat Projection (up to 18 March)	UK Polling Report Seat Projection (on 25 March)
Conservatives	284	306	302	286
Labour	278	258	262	285
Liberal Democrats	55	54	53	48
Other Parties	33	32	33	32
No. of seats Conservatives short of a majority	42	20	24	40

In other words, even assuming that the Conservatives do better in marginal seats than nationally, it currently looks like we're heading for a hung parliament.