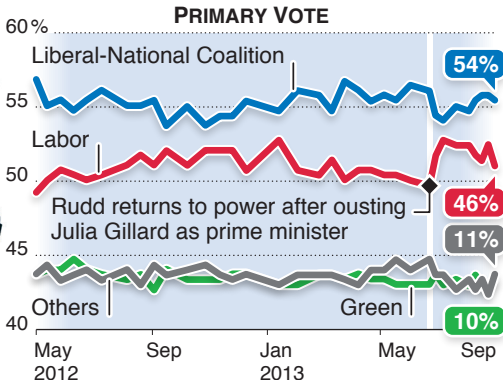
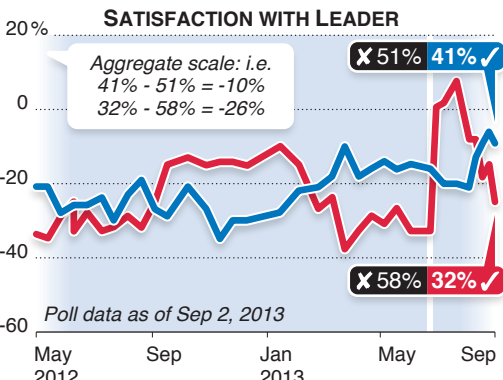


Rudd trailing Abbott as election nears

Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is pledging tax breaks and appealing to voters to trust their instincts, in a last-ditch plea to voters as he struggles to avert election defeat on September 7



Kevin Rudd:
Labor Party
leader.
Elected PM
in 2007.
Ousted by
deputy **Julia
Gillard** in
2010, but
successfully
challenged
her in June



Tony Abbott:
Liberal Party
leader.
Heads
opposition
coalition –
formed by
alliance of
four broadly
centre-right
political
parties