

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted September 21-23, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.9\%$

1. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs...?

Most of the time	45%
Some of the time	27%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	12%

2. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	15%

3. How much have you heard about a proposal for the Syrian government to surrender its chemical weapons stockpile in order to prevent a U.S. military strike?

Heard a lot	44%
Heard a little	44%
Heard nothing at all	12%

4. Do you think the Syrian government will surrender its chemical weapons stockpile in order to prevent a U.S. military strike?

Yes	23%
No	38%
Not sure	39%

5. Do you think the Syrian government is negotiating in good faith or do you think they are just stalling?

Negotiating in good faith	14%
Stalling	60%
Not sure	26%

6. What should happen if the Syrian government fails to disarm under the terms of the agreement? (Select as many options as you want.)

A military strike by the U.S. alone	11%
A military strike by a coalition including the U.S.	28%
A military strike by a country other than the U.S.	11%
Economic sanctions targeted at the entire country	19%
Economic and diplomatic sanctions targeted only at Syrian government ..	39%
Nothing	11%
Something else	5%
Not sure	21%

7. Which world leader was the most effective during the Syrian chemical weapons crisis?

Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia	49%
Barack Obama, the President of the United States	25%
David Cameron, the Prime Minister of the UK	6%
Francois Hollande, the President of France	4%
Bashar Assad, the President of Syria	9%
Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations	7%

8. Which world leader was the least effective during the Syrian chemical weapons crisis?

Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia	10%
Barack Obama, the President of the United States	44%
David Cameron, the Prime Minister of the UK	10%
Francois Hollande, the President of France	5%
Bashar Assad, the President of Syria	16%
Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations	15%

9. Do you support or oppose the use of military force against Syria?

Strongly support	6%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	22%
Strongly oppose	36%
Not sure	16%

10. Will President Obama order military action against Syria if the government refuses to disarm?

Yes	37%
No	20%
Not sure	42%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the situation in Syria?

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	36%
No opinion	15%

12. How much have you heard or read about the possibility of a shutdown of the federal government if Congress and the President cannot reach an agreement on federal spending?

A lot	42%
A little	41%
Nothing at all	17%

13. If you had to choose, would you rather have a member of Congress who...

Compromises to get things done.	63%
Sticks to their principles, no matter what.	37%

14. If you had to choose, would you rather have a President who...

Compromises to get things done. 66%
 Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what. 34%

15. Do you have a favorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
House Democrats	11%	22%	18%	34%	16%
House Republicans	8%	19%	18%	40%	15%
Senate Democrats	11%	22%	17%	34%	16%
Senate Republicans	5%	21%	23%	36%	15%

16. Do you think the health care reform bill should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded 23%
 Kept the same 13%
 Repealed 49%
 Not sure 15%

17. Which outcome is the most important to you?

Stopping Obamacare – but only if the federal government isn't shutdown temporarily 14%
 Stopping Obamacare – even if that means shutting down the federal government temporarily 33%
 Keeping Obamacare – even if that means shutting down the federal government temporarily 22%
 Keeping Obamacare – but only if the federal government isn't shutdown temporarily 11%
 Not sure 20%

18. How likely is it that a budget agreement will not be reached, resulting in a shutdown of the federal government?

Very likely	15%
Somewhat likely	30%
Not too likely	29%
Not at all likely	5%
Not sure	20%

19. Do you think that you would be personally affected by a shutdown of the federal government?

Definitely yes	16%
Probably yes	22%
Hard to say	31%
Probably no	20%
Definitely no	10%

20. If President Obama and the Republicans in Congress do not reach a budget agreement in time to avoid a shutdown of the federal government, who do you think will more to blame—President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

President Obama	27%
Republicans in Congress	32%
Both	30%
Neither	2%
Not sure	9%

21. Regardless of whether they should be legal or not, which of the following things do you personally consider to be morally acceptable or morally wrong?

	Morally acceptable	Morally wrong	Depends/not sure
Birth control	77%	6%	17%
Divorce	61%	16%	23%
The death penalty	51%	19%	31%
Premarital sex	52%	27%	21%
Gay or lesbian relations	47%	38%	15%
Doctor-assisted suicide	38%	35%	28%
Abortion	33%	42%	26%

22. Do you support or oppose Catholic priests being allowed to marry?

Support	71%
Oppose	7%
Not sure	21%

23. Do you support or oppose women being allowed to become ordained as priests in the Catholic church?

Support	56%
Oppose	21%
Not sure	24%

24. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing divorce?

Support	62%
Oppose	14%
Not sure	23%

25. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing gay marriage?

Support	42%
Oppose	43%
Not sure	15%

26. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing artificial means of birth control?

Support	67%
Oppose	9%
Not sure	24%

27. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church permitting abortion in some cases?

Support	56%
Oppose	21%
Not sure	23%

28. Does the Catholic Church spend too much, the right amount or too little time talking about social issues like abortion, homosexuality, and contraception?

Too much time	29%
The right amount of time	20%
Too little time	20%
Not sure	31%

29. Does the Catholic Church spend too much, the right amount or too little time helping the poor?

Too much time	3%
The right amount of time	29%
Too little time	42%
Not sure	26%

30. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following Popes?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Pope Francis	25%	23%	5%	6%	40%
Pope Benedict XVI	9%	19%	16%	15%	42%
Pope John Paul II	21%	21%	10%	7%	41%
Pope John XXIII	12%	18%	7%	7%	56%

31. Should government funding of space exploration be increased, kept the same or decreased?

Increased a lot	15%
Increased a little	19%
Kept the same	27%
Decreased a little	10%
Decreased a lot	13%
Not sure	16%

32. Do you personally believe that there is intelligent life somewhere in space, or not?

Yes	52%
No	20%
Don't know	28%

33. Do you personally believe that there is life on the planet Mars, or not?

Yes	14%
No	52%
Don't know	34%

34. Do you personally believe that there ever was life on Mars, or not?

Yes	30%
No	25%
Don't know	45%

35. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	18%	4%	2%
Immigration	41%	31%	20%	8%
The environment	42%	34%	14%	10%
Terrorism	50%	30%	11%	9%
Gay rights	21%	22%	26%	31%
Education	57%	30%	7%	6%
Health care	67%	22%	7%	3%
Social security	64%	25%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	26%	9%	6%
The war in Afghanistan	29%	35%	24%	13%
Taxes	59%	29%	7%	4%
Medicare	56%	31%	9%	4%
Abortion	30%	28%	25%	16%

36. Which of these is the **most** important issue for you?

The economy	37%
Immigration	3%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	4%
Health care	14%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	2%
Abortion	5%

37. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Barack Obama	25%	18%	10%	38%	8%
John Boehner	5%	18%	22%	33%	23%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	18%	29%	33%
Harry Reid	6%	15%	15%	33%	30%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	19%	14%	40%	18%
Joe Biden	18%	22%	13%	33%	13%
Hillary Clinton	26%	21%	11%	33%	10%

38. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	7%

39. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	14%	21%	11%	42%	12%
Immigration	14%	21%	13%	37%	16%
The environment	12%	26%	14%	29%	20%
Terrorism	17%	25%	16%	29%	13%
Gay rights	18%	21%	9%	31%	21%
Education	15%	25%	15%	27%	18%
Health care	21%	17%	9%	42%	10%
Social security	13%	21%	18%	31%	18%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	26%	16%	29%	15%
The budget deficit	14%	19%	12%	42%	13%
Taxes	13%	21%	14%	36%	15%
Medicare	14%	22%	15%	33%	16%
Abortion	14%	21%	9%	29%	26%

40. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States Congress is handling its job?

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	12%

41. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	25%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	11%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	15%

43. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	50%
Not sure	11%

44. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Barack Obama as a person?

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	24%
Dislike	33%
Not sure	12%

45. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or worse?

Getting better	21%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	38%
Not sure	5%

46. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?

Higher	19%
About the same	35%
Lower	20%
Not sure	26%

47. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago	14%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	34%
Not sure	6%

48. Is the place where you live owned or rented?

Owned by you or your family	58%
Rented from someone else	40%
Other	2%

49. Do you think the value of your home has increased or decreased in the last year?

Increased	20%
Stayed about the same	45%
Decreased	25%
Not sure	11%

50. Do you think home prices in your area have increased or decreased in the last year?

Increased	34%
Stayed about the same	37%
Decreased	9%
Not sure	21%

51. Thinking ahead, do you think home prices in your area will increase or decrease in the next year?

Will increase a lot	6%
Will increase a little	26%
Will stay about the same	36%
Will decrease a little	10%
Will decrease a lot	4%
Not sure	18%

52. How worried are you about making your mortgage payments?

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	24%
Not worried	29%
Don't have mortgage payments	39%

53. Do you plan to buy a home in the next 12 months?

Will definitely buy a home	1%
Am considering buying a home	12%
Not looking for a home now	87%

54. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes	20%
No	80%

55. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	69%
No	27%
Don't know	4%

56. Six months from now, do you think there will be...

More jobs	16%
The same amount of jobs	40%
Fewer jobs	30%
Not sure	13%

57. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

58. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	66%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	4%
Native American	1%
Middle Eastern	0%
Mixed	2%
Other	1%

59. Education

No high school	11%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	23%
2-year college	11%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

60. What is your marital status?

Married	43%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	5%
Single	35%
Domestic partnership	5%

61. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	28%
45-64	33%
65+	15%

62. Race

White	66%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Other	8%

63. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	24%

64. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	25%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	22%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 21-23, 2013
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2010 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2010 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Religion, political interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Pew Religion in American Life Survey.
Weighting	The sample was weighted using propensity scores based on age, gender, race, education, news interest, voter registration, and non-placement on an ideology scale. The weights range from 0.2 to 7.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.22.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.