

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted August 2-4, 2014  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.7\%$

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	42%
Some of the time	31%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	10%
Don't know	2%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	17%

3. Do you normally take a summer vacation?

Yes	38%
No	62%

4. Do you think you have accomplished more or less than you usually do at this point in the year?

More than usual	22%
About the same	49%
Less than usual	25%
Not sure	3%

5. Do you feel you have been working hard enough to deserve taking a summer vacation for a week in August, or not?

Yes .....	63%
No .....	23%
Not sure .....	14%

6. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Benjamin Netanyahu?

Very favorable .....	18%
Somewhat favorable .....	16%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	14%
Very unfavorable .....	11%
Don't know .....	41%

7. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are your sympathies more with...?

The Israelis .....	35%
About equal .....	25%
The Palestinians .....	12%
Not sure .....	28%

8. Do U.S. policies in the Middle East give too much or too little support to Israel?

Too much support .....	27%
About the right amount of support .....	21%
Too little support .....	25%
Not sure .....	27%

9. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, do you think President Obama's sympathies are more with...?

The Israelis .....	18%
About equal .....	18%
The Palestinians .....	30%
Not sure .....	35%

10. Which side has experienced more civilian deaths in the current conflict?

The Israelis .....	7%
It's about equal .....	16%
The Palestinians .....	45%
Don't know .....	32%

11. Do you think the Israelis are using too much or too little force or are they using the right amount of force?

Too much force .....	24%
Right amount of force .....	31%
Too little force .....	13%
Don't know .....	32%

12. Based on what you know, do you think the Israelis were justified in launching a ground attack and air strikes against Hamas in Gaza?

Yes, Israel is justified .....	45%
No, Israel is not justified .....	21%
Don't know .....	34%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Secretary of State John Kerry is handling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Strongly approve .....	7%
Somewhat approve .....	19%
Somewhat disapprove .....	15%
Strongly disapprove .....	23%
No opinion .....	35%

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	27%
No opinion	27%

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the conflict in Ukraine?

Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	25%
No opinion	28%

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the the problem of unaccompanied children illegally crossing the US border?

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	36%
No opinion	21%

17. Have you heard mostly positive or mostly negative news stories about the economy, or have you not heard much news at all about the economy?

Mostly positive	15%
Equally positive and negative	32%
Mostly negative	35%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	17%

18. When you have discussed the economy with your friends and family, has the discussion been mostly positive or mostly negative, or have you not discussed the economy at all with your friends and family?

Mostly positive .....	10%
Equally positive and negative .....	24%
Mostly negative .....	42%
Not discussed the economy at all .....	23%

19. Please give us your best guess to the following question. How has the unemployment rate in the country changed from January 2009, when President Obama first took office, to July 2014?

Unemployment rate <u>decreased</u> by 1% or more .....	30%
Unemployment rate <u>decreased</u> by between 0% and 1% .....	14%
Unemployment rate is the same .....	10%
Unemployment rate <u>increased</u> by between 0% and 1% .....	8%
Unemployment rate <u>increased</u> by 1% or more .....	22%
Don't know .....	17%

20. Is the number of jobs today higher or lower than the number of jobs in the US before the Great Recession of 2008?

Higher now .....	32%
The same .....	18%
Lower now .....	33%
Not sure .....	17%

21. Is increasing the number of jobs something a president can do a lot about, or is that beyond any president's control?

Yes, the President can do a lot .....	48%
No, it is beyond the President's control .....	33%
Don't know .....	19%

22. Should the federal government encourage employment through various incentives, laws and regulations or should the federal government not be directly involved?

Federal government should encourage employment .....	55%
Federal government should not be directly involved .....	28%
Not sure .....	17%

23. How would you rate the job the federal government has done in encouraging employment?

*Asked of those who think the federal government should attempt to encourage employment*

Federal government should not be directly involved .....	28%
Not sure if federal government should be involved .....	17%
Very good .....	1%
Good .....	17%
Poor .....	20%
Very poor .....	12%
Not sure .....	4%

24. Should the federal government attempt to stimulate economic growth through various incentives, laws and regulations or should the federal government not be directly involved?

Federal government should attempt to stimulate economic growth .....	55%
Federal government should not be directly involved .....	29%
Not sure .....	17%

25. How would you rate the job the federal government has done in stimulating economic growth?

*Asked of those who think the federal government should attempt to stimulate economic growth*

Federal government should not be directly involved .....	29%
Not sure if federal government should be involved .....	17%
Very good .....	3%
Good .....	17%
Poor .....	15%
Very poor .....	14%
Not sure .....	5%

26. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole unemployment rates during THE NEXT YEAR will increase, decrease or remain about the same?

Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot lower</u> than they are today	6%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat lower</u> than they are today	23%
Unemployment rates will be <u>about the same</u> as they are today	32%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat higher</u> than they are today	14%
Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot higher</u> than they are today	11%
Not sure	14%

27. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole unemployment rates during THE NEXT FIVE YEARS will increase, decrease or remain about the same?

Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot lower</u> than they are today	10%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat lower</u> than they are today	24%
Unemployment rates will be <u>about the same</u> as they are today	20%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat higher</u> than they are today	16%
Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot higher</u> than they are today	9%
Not sure	22%

28. Do you feel President Obama has been working hard enough to deserve taking a summer vacation for a week in August, or not?

Yes	40%
No	47%
Not sure	13%

29. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does at this point in its two-year term?

More than usual	4%
About the same	24%
Less than usual	59%
Not sure	13%

**30. Do you think the following people are willing to compromise to get things done?**

	Yes	No	Not sure
Republicans in Congress	24%	61%	15%
Democrats in Congress	38%	48%	14%
President Obama	43%	46%	11%

**31. Which party does a better job handling the following issues?**

	Republicans	Democrats	Neither	Not sure
Immigration	26%	31%	30%	13%
Gay rights	11%	47%	27%	15%
Education	19%	37%	31%	13%
Health care	25%	37%	25%	12%
Taxes	28%	31%	29%	12%
Abortion	21%	37%	25%	17%
The economy	27%	31%	29%	13%
Creating Jobs	25%	31%	30%	14%

**32. Which party is better for the following groups?**

	Republicans	Democrats	Neither	Not sure
Gays and Lesbians	7%	59%	19%	15%
Women	20%	47%	19%	14%
Blacks/African-Americans	14%	53%	18%	14%
Hispanics	15%	48%	22%	15%
Families	29%	38%	18%	14%
Small business owners	34%	34%	18%	14%
Gun owners	58%	14%	16%	13%
Christians	47%	18%	21%	14%



**33. Who do you think is setting the agenda in Washington DC these days?**

President Obama .....	18%
House Republicans .....	11%
Senate Republicans .....	3%
Senate Democrats .....	5%
House Democrats .....	2%
The media .....	11%
The Supreme Court .....	2%
Lobbyists .....	23%
Not sure .....	26%

**34. Do you feel Congress has been working hard enough to deserve taking a summer recess for the month of August, or not?**

Yes .....	9%
No .....	78%
Not sure .....	13%

**35. Do you think the health care reform law should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?**

Expanded .....	28%
Kept the same .....	16%
Repealed .....	41%
Not sure .....	14%

**36. From all that you know now, has the health care reform law been a complete success, a complete failure, or something in between?**

A complete failure .....	23%
More of a failure than a success .....	19%
Equal amount of both failure and success .....	18%
More of a success than a failure .....	19%
A complete success .....	7%
Too early to tell .....	7%
Not sure .....	8%

37. Do you think the number of people with health insurance has increased, remained the same, or decreased over the last 12 months?

Increased .....	45%
Remained the same .....	19%
Decreased .....	20%
Don't know .....	16%

38. Do you think the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase by more or less than they usually do?

The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase more than they usually do .....	42%
The law has not had an effect on health insurance prices for most people .....	20%
The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase less than they usually do .....	14%
Not sure .....	24%

39. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	75%	19%	4%	2%
Immigration	51%	32%	12%	5%
The environment	42%	36%	14%	8%
Terrorism	55%	28%	13%	5%
Gay rights	21%	24%	27%	29%
Education	56%	33%	7%	4%
Health care	65%	29%	4%	3%
Social security	61%	30%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	52%	34%	10%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	40%	21%	11%
Taxes	61%	29%	7%	3%
Medicare	52%	36%	9%	3%
Abortion	32%	37%	17%	14%
Foreign policy	38%	38%	17%	7%

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

The economy	29%
Immigration	8%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	9%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%
Foreign policy	1%

41. 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	23%	26%	9%	37%	7%
Joe Biden	16%	24%	13%	29%	17%
John Boehner	4%	19%	22%	34%	22%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	19%	26%	36%
Harry Reid	8%	18%	11%	32%	31%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	22%	13%	34%	21%
John Kerry	12%	28%	15%	26%	19%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Rand Paul	11%	22%	16%	19%	32%
Chris Christie	7%	20%	28%	21%	23%
Paul Ryan	13%	20%	15%	26%	27%
Jeb Bush	6%	23%	25%	23%	22%
Mike Huckabee	12%	23%	15%	21%	30%
Marco Rubio	11%	20%	15%	21%	34%
Hillary Clinton	24%	25%	13%	31%	7%
Elizabeth Warren	16%	13%	10%	18%	42%
Ted Cruz	11%	16%	11%	28%	34%
Scott Walker	12%	12%	10%	21%	44%
Brian Schweitzer	3%	8%	12%	10%	67%
Rick Perry	12%	20%	15%	24%	29%

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

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	15%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	5%

44. 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%	25%	14%	37%	11%
Immigration	15%	17%	14%	41%	13%
The environment	13%	28%	17%	26%	17%
Terrorism	17%	26%	12%	31%	13%
Gay rights	18%	22%	13%	28%	20%
Education	15%	30%	15%	25%	16%
Health care	21%	22%	12%	36%	9%
Social security	12%	25%	18%	28%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	23%	18%	31%	15%
The budget deficit	13%	21%	18%	36%	13%
Taxes	13%	27%	15%	32%	13%
Medicare	14%	25%	17%	29%	15%
Abortion	14%	21%	12%	28%	24%
Foreign policy	13%	24%	14%	34%	15%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	7%

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

Very liberal .....	6%
Liberal .....	18%
Moderate .....	35%
Conservative .....	31%
Very conservative .....	9%
Not sure .....	1%

47. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	34%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	24%
Conservative .....	8%
Very conservative .....	3%
Not sure .....	10%

48. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	47%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Like a lot .....	32%
Like somewhat .....	26%
Dislike .....	32%
Not sure .....	10%

50. Which of these words would you use to describe Barack Obama?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	35%	27%
Bold	28%	52%	19%
Effective	19%	50%	30%
Exciting	13%	65%	22%
Experienced	17%	52%	31%
Honest	31%	35%	34%
Hypocritical	35%	41%	24%
Inspiring	30%	46%	23%
Intelligent	50%	33%	17%
Partisan	26%	62%	13%
Patriotic	25%	47%	28%
Religious	13%	59%	28%
Sincere	31%	42%	28%
Steady	23%	58%	19%
Strong	25%	51%	24%

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

Getting better	26%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	4%

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

More jobs	20%
The same amount of jobs	42%
Fewer jobs	26%
Not sure	12%

53. We'd like to know whether you or someone in your immediate family is currently serving or has ever served in the U.S. military. Immediate family is defined as your parents, siblings, spouse, and children. Please check all boxes that apply.

Military Household - I am .....	2%
Military Household - Family .....	8%
Military Household - I served previously .....	12%
Military Household - Family served previously .....	32%
Military Household - None .....	52%

**54. Gender**

Male .....	50%
Female .....	50%

**55. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?**

Strongly support .....	12%
Somewhat support .....	17%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	20%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	24%
Not sure .....	16%

**56. Education**

No high school .....	9%
High school graduate .....	32%
Some college .....	22%
2-year college .....	12%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	8%



**57. Age**

18-29 .....	24%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	15%

**58. Race**

White .....	67%
Black .....	14%
Hispanic .....	11%
Other .....	8%

**59. Region**

Northeast .....	18%
Midwest .....	22%
South .....	39%
West .....	21%

**60. Party Identification**

Democratic .....	40%
Independent .....	34%
Republican .....	26%

**61. Are you registered to vote?**

Yes .....	70%
No .....	30%
Don't know .....	0%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	August 2-4, 2014
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 to 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.15.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.7% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	21 questions not reported.