

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents

Conducted January 18-20, 2014

Margin of Error $\pm 3.9\%$

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	48%
Some of the time	30%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	14%

3. Which is more important to you?

The government respect civil liberties, even if that means accepting some risk to national security	55%
The government pursue national security, even if that means abridging some civil liberties	45%

4. Should the US government afford foreign citizens living in foreign countries the same legal protections against spying guaranteed to US citizens living in the US?

Yes	21%
No	48%
Not sure	31%

5. Do you think other friendly nations have spied on the US government?

Yes	86%
No	4%
Not sure	9%

6. Do you think other friendly nations have spied on US citizens living in the US?

Yes	75%
No	7%
Not sure	18%

7. Do you think collecting and analyzing Americans' phone records is justified as a way to combat terrorism, or is it an unnecessary intrusion into Americans' lives?

Justified as a way to combat terrorism	29%
Unnecessary intrusion into Americans' lives	58%
Not sure	13%

8. The National Security Agency has been collecting information about telephone records – length of calls and the numbers called – in order to reduce the threat of terrorism. Do you approve or disapprove of their doing this?

Approve strongly	9%
Approve somewhat	30%
Disapprove somewhat	25%
Disapprove strongly	29%
Not sure	6%

9. This week, President Obama delivered a major policy speech on the National Security Agency. Do you think the proposals the President announced are major changes, minor changes, or not really changes to the NSA?

Major changes	8%
Minor changes	28%
Not really changes	28%
Not sure	36%

10. How much trust do you have in President Obama to oversee reforms in NSA surveillance programs?

A great deal	10%
A fair amount	25%
Not too much	23%
Not at all	35%
Not sure	7%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the NSA?

Approve strongly	8%
Approve somewhat	27%
Disapprove somewhat	18%
Disapprove strongly	31%
Not sure	16%

12. Edward Snowden, a former NSA contractor, made the news for leaking information of government surveillance on Americans, including monitoring internet usage and telephone records, to the press. What is your opinion on Snowden, if any?

Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	26%
Somewhat unfavorable	19%
Very unfavorable	22%
Not sure	16%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of Edward Snowden's decision to leak information about U.S. surveillance activities?

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	26%
Not sure	10%

14. Would you support or oppose the prosecution of Edward Snowden for leaking the information?

I would support prosecution	28%
I neither support nor oppose	29%
I would oppose his prosecution	31%
Not sure	12%

15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly	Not sure
Snowden performed a service letting Americans know about the NSA's data collection activities	25%	36%	15%	12%	12%
Snowden hurt American security by leaking information	25%	24%	25%	16%	11%
Snowden had good intentions but went about it the wrong way	14%	41%	17%	15%	12%
Snowden hurt his case when he asked for political asylum in Russia	32%	27%	14%	9%	18%
Snowden should have been willing to accept the consequences of his actions, and remained in the United States	31%	30%	16%	12%	11%

16. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the National Security Agency?

Very favorable	7%
Somewhat favorable	25%
Somewhat unfavorable	31%
Very unfavorable	21%
Don't know	17%

17. How serious a threat do you think Iran poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	20%
A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	38%
A minor threat to the U.S.	27%
Not a threat to the U.S.	7%
Not sure	7%

18. What strategy should the US employ to get Iran to limit its nuclear program?

Threaten Iran with of the possible use of military force	18%
Threaten Iran with harsher economic sanctions	35%
Reward Iran with easing of economic sanctions	20%
Reward Iran with a guarantee of no use of military force	8%
Reward Iran with resumption of diplomatic relations	12%
Something else	7%
Not sure	22%

19. How closely have you been following the news on the current round of negotiations to limit Iran’s nuclear capabilities?

Very closely	12%
Somewhat closely	37%
Not very closely	32%
Not closely at all	19%

20. Do you approve or disapprove of an international agreement which requires Iran to temporarily freeze parts of its nuclear program and participate in international negotiations to limit its nuclear program permanently in exchange for a temporary easing of economic sanctions?

Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	37%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	13%
No opinion	18%

21. How much do you trust the government of Iran to adhere to any agreement which limits Iran’s ability to produce a nuclear weapon?

A great deal	4%
Some	16%
Not much	31%
Not at all	39%
Not sure	9%

22. Should President Obama personally negotiate with the leaders of Iran to limit their nuclear program?

Yes	55%
No	45%

23. Should Congress establish what are acceptable limits for international negotiations before the administration begins to negotiate?

Yes	53%
No	23%
Not sure	23%

24. Do you favor or oppose subjecting all foreign treaties to approval by the US Senate?

Favor strongly	20%
Favor somewhat	30%
Oppose somewhat	17%
Oppose strongly	6%
Not sure	27%

25. When it comes to setting national policy on Iran, do you think the President is motivated more by political considerations or what he thinks is in the best interest of the US?

Political considerations	48%
Best interests of the US	35%
Not sure	17%

26. When it comes to setting national policy on Iran, do you think the members of the US Congress are motivated more by political considerations or what the members think is in the best interest of the US?

Political considerations	63%
Best interests of the US	20%
Not sure	17%

27. Who do you trust more when it comes to negotiating treaties with other countries?

The President	28%
The US Senate	12%
Both equally	14%
Neither	35%
Not sure	12%

28. If negotiations fail, do you approve or disapprove of the use of military force against Iran by the US?

Approve strongly	15%
Approve somewhat	24%
Disapprove somewhat	21%
Disapprove strongly	24%
Not sure	16%

29. If negotiations fail, do you approve or disapprove of the use of military force against Iran by Israel?

Approve strongly	21%
Approve somewhat	27%
Disapprove somewhat	16%
Disapprove strongly	19%
Not sure	18%

30. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling Iran?

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	25%
No opinion	20%

31. 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	29%
More of a failure than a success	22%
Equal amount of both failure and success	16%
More of a success than a failure	16%
A complete success	1%
Too early to tell	11%
Not sure	5%

32. Have you tried to visit the federal health insurance exchange website, healthcare.gov?

Yes	29%
No	69%
Not sure	2%

33. Thinking about your most recent attempt, why did you visit healthcare.gov?

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

To buy health insurance	17%
To get information about health insurance	46%
Just curious	35%
Other	2%
Not sure	0%

34. Was your most recent experience at healthcare.gov positive or negative?

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

Very positive	20%
Somewhat positive	14%
Neither positive nor negative	17%
Somewhat negative	17%
Very negative	32%
Not sure	0%

35. Which month was your most recent visit to healthcare.gov?

October	8%
November	19%
December	42%
January	28%
Don't remember	3%

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

Expanded	28%
Kept the same	11%
Repealed	46%
Not sure	16%

37. Do you have health insurance?

Yes	79%
No	21%

38. Will you buy a health insurance plan before the deadline or will you pay the fine instead?

Asked of those who do not have health insurance

Buy health insurance	19%
Pay the fine	30%
Already signed up	9%
Not sure	42%

39. About how often do you go to see movies in a movie theater

Once a week or more	2%
2 - 3 times a month	9%
About once a month	15%
Few times a year	39%
Almost never or never	34%

40. Do you follow the Academy Awards very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

Very closely	6%
Fairly closely	16%
Not too closely	34%
Not at all closely	44%

41. Do you follow the Academy Awards?

Yes	22%
No	78%

42. Which of the following movies have you seen? (Check all that apply.)

Gravity	14%
12 Years a Slave	6%
Philomena	3%
American Hustle	11%
Her	2%
Nebraska	2%
The Wolf of Wall Street	7%
Dallas Buyers Club	2%
Captain Phillips	9%
Blue Jasmine	2%
August: Osage County	2%
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	13%
The Lone Ranger	16%
Iron Man 3	32%
Star Trek Into Darkness	19%
None of these	44%

43. Which one of the films listed below do you want to win the Academy Award for Best Picture?

Gravity	7%
12 Years a Slave	12%
Philomena	1%
American Hustle	7%
Her	2%
Nebraska	1%
The Wolf of Wall Street	3%
Dallas Buyers Club	2%
Captain Phillips	5%
Not sure	60%

44. Which one of the actors listed below do you want to win the Academy Award for Best Actor?

Chiwetel Ejiofor, 12 Years a Slave	12%
Christian Bale, American Hustle	7%
Bruce Dern, Nebraska	6%
Leonardo DiCaprio, The Wolf of Wall Street	16%
Matthew McConaughey, Dallas Buyers Club	9%
Not sure	50%

45. Which one of the actresses listed below do you want to win the Academy Award for Best Actress?

Sandra Bullock, Gravity	27%
Judi Dench, Philomena	6%
Amy Adams, American Hustle	9%
Cate Blanchett, Blue Jasmine	4%
Meryl Streep, August: Osage County	9%
Not sure	45%

46. Which one of the actors listed below do you want to win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor?

Michael Fassbender, 12 Years a Slave	9%
Bradley Cooper, American Hustle	13%
Jonah Hill, The Wolf of Wall Street	7%
Jared Leto, Dallas Buyers Club	7%
Barkhad Abdi, Captain Phillips	6%
Not sure	58%

47. Which one of the actresses listed below do you want to win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress?

Lupita Nyong'o, 12 Years a Slave	9%
Jennifer Lawrence, American Hustle	18%
June Squibb, Nebraska	2%
Sally Hawkins, Blue Jasmine	2%
Julia Roberts, August: Osage County	15%
Not sure	53%

48. Which one of the directors listed below do you want to win the Academy Award for Best Directing?

Alfonso Cuaron, Gravity	10%
Steve McQueen, 12 Years A Slave	15%
David O. Russell, American Hustle	6%
Alexander Payne, Nebraska	3%
Martin Scorsese, The Wolf of Wall Street	10%
Not sure	56%

49. Which one of the films listed below do you want to win the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects?

Gravity	20%
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	13%
The Lone Ranger	3%
Iron Man 3	11%
Star Trek Into Darkness	9%
Not sure	44%

50. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	77%	19%	3%	1%
Immigration	43%	33%	19%	6%
The environment	46%	31%	15%	8%
Terrorism	55%	26%	12%	6%
Gay rights	25%	23%	21%	31%
Education	63%	28%	7%	3%
Health care	64%	25%	8%	3%
Social security	62%	28%	8%	1%
The budget deficit	55%	28%	12%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	40%	19%	7%
Taxes	60%	29%	8%	2%
Medicare	55%	29%	12%	4%
Abortion	35%	31%	20%	14%

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

The economy	30%
Immigration	4%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	6%
Gay rights	3%
Education	10%
Health care	11%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	4%

52. 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	26%	19%	10%	39%	6%
Joe Biden	16%	24%	15%	32%	12%
John Boehner	7%	18%	20%	33%	22%
Mitch McConnell	5%	17%	20%	28%	30%
Harry Reid	8%	19%	13%	33%	26%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	19%	14%	39%	17%
Hillary Clinton	30%	18%	13%	32%	7%
Chris Christie	10%	25%	22%	23%	20%

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

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	4%

54. 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%	24%	14%	39%	10%
Immigration	12%	24%	15%	36%	13%
The environment	12%	30%	15%	28%	15%
Terrorism	16%	28%	16%	28%	12%
Gay rights	17%	24%	11%	28%	19%
Education	15%	29%	15%	27%	15%
Health care	19%	20%	11%	42%	9%
Social security	13%	23%	16%	30%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	28%	16%	33%	13%
The budget deficit	11%	22%	15%	40%	12%
Taxes	11%	28%	14%	33%	14%
Medicare	16%	22%	15%	30%	16%
Abortion	12%	21%	12%	29%	26%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	6%

56. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	11%	27%	19%	35%	9%
Republicans in Congress	7%	21%	23%	40%	8%

57. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the political parties?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	12%	29%	16%	35%	7%
The Republican Party	6%	24%	22%	41%	7%

58. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...

The Democratic Party candidate	36%
The Republican Party candidate	27%
Other	7%
Not sure	23%
I would not vote	8%

59. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

The Democratic Party candidate	38%
The Republican Party candidate	29%
Other	4%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	10%

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

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	32%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	1%

61. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	10%

62. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	36%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	55%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	31%
Not sure	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	32%	30%
Bold	26%	61%	13%
Effective	17%	54%	29%
Exciting	13%	69%	19%
Experienced	19%	54%	27%
Honest	29%	39%	32%
Hypocritical	36%	40%	24%
Inspiring	28%	49%	22%
Intelligent	53%	35%	11%
Partisan	22%	66%	12%
Patriotic	26%	47%	27%
Religious	12%	62%	26%
Sincere	29%	44%	27%
Steady	25%	58%	16%
Strong	26%	56%	18%

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

Getting better	23%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	38%
Lower	19%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	34%
Not sure	2%

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

Owned by you or your family	63%
Rented from someone else	35%
Other	2%

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

Increased	22%
Stayed about the same	47%
Decreased	24%
Not sure	7%

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

Increased	40%
Stayed about the same	33%
Decreased	10%
Not sure	17%

71. 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	36%
Will stay about the same	30%
Will decrease a little	10%
Will decrease a lot	3%
Not sure	14%

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

Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	23%
Not worried	35%
Don't have mortgage payments	33%

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

Will definitely buy a home	4%
Am considering buying a home	14%
Not looking for a home now	82%

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

Yes	29%
No	71%

75. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time employed	40%
Part-time employed	14%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	12%
Retired	18%
Permanently disabled	7%
Homemaker	7%
Other	2%

76. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	14%
No	86%

77. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	10%
Somewhat worried	31%
Not very worried	59%

78. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	39%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	33%
Not very hard	21%
Not sure	8%

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

More jobs	19%
The same amount of jobs	41%
Fewer jobs	28%
Not sure	12%

80. How happy would you say you are with your current job?

Very happy	19%
Happy	37%
Neither happy nor unhappy	29%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	8%

81. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now?

Higher	24%
Same	61%
Lower	16%

82. If you lost your job, how long would it be before you exhausted your savings?

I don't have any savings	40%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	17%
I could last a few months on my savings	22%
I could last a year on my savings	10%
I could last more than a year on my savings	11%

83. Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%

84. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?
Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	17%

85. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?

Yes	16%
No	66%
Not Sure	18%

86. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	70%
Black	14%
Hispanic	10%
Asian	1%
Native American	0%
Middle Eastern	0%
Mixed	3%
Other	2%

87. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	24%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	8%

88. What is your marital status?

Married	44%
Separated	4%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	3%
Single	32%
Domestic partnership	5%

89. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	34%
No	66%

90. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	39%
Somewhat important	27%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	19%

91. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week	9%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	14%
Seldom	22%
Never	26%
Don't know	1%

92. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?

Several times a day	28%
Once a day	16%
A few times a week	14%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	12%
Never	17%
Don't know	3%

93. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	37%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	4%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	8%

94. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	15%

95. Race

White	70%
Black	14%
Hispanic	10%
Other	6%

96. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	25%
South	38%
West	19%

97. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	26%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 18-20, 2014
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 0.1 to 4.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.77.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.