

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents

Conducted December 21-23, 2013

Margin of Error $\pm 4.3\%$

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	49%
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	29%
Off on the wrong track	61%
Not sure	11%

3. Do you usually stay awake past midnight on New Year's Eve?

Yes	69%
No	28%
Not sure	3%

4. Will you stay awake past midnight on New Year's Eve this year?

Yes	60%
No	19%
Not sure	22%

5. Do you usually attend a party or other celebration on New Year's Eve?

Yes	30%
No	67%
Not sure	4%

6. Will you attend a party or other celebration on New Year's Eve this year?

Yes	26%
No	56%
Not sure	18%

7. Have you ever watched the crystal ball drop in Times Square on New Year's Eve? (either on television or live in Times Square)

Yes	88%
No	11%
Not sure	1%

8. Will you watch the crystal ball drop in Times Square on New Year's Eve this year? (either on television or live in Times Square)

Yes	40%
No	27%
Not sure	33%

9. Do you normally like or dislike New Year's Eve?

Like a lot	29%
Like somewhat	51%
Dislike somewhat	10%
Dislike a lot	2%
Not sure	7%

10. Do you usually attend religious services on New Year's Day?

Yes	13%
No	83%
Not sure	4%

11. Will you attend religious services on New Year's Day this year?

Yes	11%
No	76%
Not sure	14%

12. Looking back at 2013, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year	9%
A good year	50%
A bad year	32%
A very bad year	9%

13. Looking back at 2013, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	3%
A good year	29%
A bad year	54%
A very bad year	15%

14. In the last year, has the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	8%
No change	31%
Less respected	61%

15. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were a year ago when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	2%	9%	29%	24%	27%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	5%	14%	41%	17%	14%	8%
Energy issues	5%	13%	42%	18%	14%	8%
The environment	4%	11%	52%	18%	9%	7%
The economy in your area	5%	21%	30%	24%	14%	5%
Job security	4%	14%	28%	26%	21%	7%
Government spending	4%	10%	20%	18%	42%	5%
Health care coverage	8%	18%	12%	13%	43%	5%
Education	4%	7%	41%	26%	17%	5%
Social Security and Medicare	4%	8%	33%	27%	21%	7%
The U.S. financial system	4%	15%	19%	25%	31%	6%
Wall Street	12%	23%	31%	13%	9%	11%

16. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	15%
About what I expected	37%
Less than I expected	42%
Not sure	7%

17. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	10%
Above Average	17%
Average	18%
Below Average	12%
Poor	40%
Not Sure	4%

18. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	15%
Somewhat strong	26%
Somewhat weak	18%
Very weak	40%

19. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	6%	9%	15%	62%	8%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	12%	15%	16%	52%	5%
Improving the economy	13%	21%	17%	46%	3%

20. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	5%
About the same	26%
Less than usual	61%
Not sure	7%

21. Who is more to blame for Congress achieving less than it usually does in a year?

Asked if respondent says Congress accomplished less than usual

Republicans in Congress	39%
Democrats in Congress	18%
Both equally	41%
Neither	1%
Not sure	1%

22. 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	39%
More of a failure than a success	16%
Equal amount of both failure and success	11%
More of a success than a failure	14%
A complete success	3%
Too early to tell	11%
Not sure	5%

23. When will we know for sure whether the health care reform law is a success or failure?

We will never really know	9%
We will know after the law has been in effect for several years	27%
We will know after the law has been in effect for one year	20%
We will know in a few months when we find out how many people have enrolled	15%
We know now even before the law has been put into effect	29%

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

Yes	23%
No	73%
Not sure	3%

25. Was your experience at healthcare.gov positive or negative?

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

Very positive	14%
Somewhat positive	13%
Neither positive nor negative	18%
Somewhat negative	19%
Very negative	34%
Not sure	3%

26. Which month did you visit healthcare.gov?

October	33%
November	35%
December	26%
Don't remember	5%

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

Expanded	27%
Kept the same	12%
Repealed	47%
Not sure	14%

28. Do you have health insurance?

Yes	82%
No	18%

29. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	21%	3%	1%
Immigration	40%	35%	19%	6%
The environment	40%	35%	17%	8%
Terrorism	55%	30%	12%	4%
Gay rights	26%	22%	18%	34%
Education	61%	28%	9%	2%
Health care	70%	23%	5%	2%
Social security	61%	29%	9%	1%
The budget deficit	59%	27%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	39%	22%	8%
Taxes	60%	31%	8%	1%
Medicare	55%	31%	11%	3%
Abortion	39%	27%	18%	16%

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

The economy	29%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	15%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	6%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	4%

31. 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	28%	17%	10%	43%	1%
Joe Biden	17%	23%	13%	38%	9%
John Boehner	6%	18%	20%	38%	18%
Mitch McConnell	5%	17%	19%	32%	28%
Harry Reid	9%	17%	12%	39%	24%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	18%	11%	47%	13%
Hillary Clinton	28%	22%	11%	37%	2%

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

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	2%

33. 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	17%	22%	15%	42%	4%
Immigration	12%	22%	18%	37%	10%
The environment	13%	25%	17%	27%	18%
Terrorism	20%	27%	16%	30%	7%
Gay rights	19%	22%	12%	31%	16%
Education	13%	29%	17%	28%	14%
Health care	19%	20%	9%	48%	4%
Social security	13%	21%	21%	30%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	29%	19%	27%	10%
The budget deficit	12%	21%	15%	46%	6%
Taxes	12%	21%	18%	40%	9%
Medicare	14%	21%	21%	31%	13%
Abortion	12%	20%	13%	32%	23%

34. 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	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	4%

35. 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	12%	24%	19%	40%	5%
Republicans in Congress	9%	19%	23%	44%	5%

36. 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	17%	22%	18%	40%	4%
The Republican Party	10%	22%	22%	42%	4%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	37%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	6%
Not sure	21%
I would not vote	3%

38. 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	39%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	4%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	4%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	30%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	2%

40. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	45%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	7%

41. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	37%
Not sure	6%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	45%	31%	24%
Bold	26%	55%	19%
Effective	17%	47%	36%
Exciting	14%	60%	26%
Experienced	17%	47%	35%
Honest	26%	34%	40%
Hypocritical	42%	37%	22%
Inspiring	32%	41%	28%
Intelligent	53%	31%	16%
Partisan	31%	54%	15%
Patriotic	25%	44%	32%
Religious	11%	60%	29%
Sincere	28%	39%	33%
Steady	24%	55%	21%
Strong	29%	42%	29%

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

Getting better	26%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	3%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	35%
Lower	19%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	3%

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

Owned by you or your family	67%
Rented from someone else	32%
Other	2%

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

Increased	25%
Stayed about the same	44%
Decreased	20%
Not sure	11%

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

Increased	31%
Stayed about the same	39%
Decreased	14%
Not sure	16%

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

Will increase a lot	4%
Will increase a little	33%
Will stay about the same	34%
Will decrease a little	9%
Will decrease a lot	3%
Not sure	17%

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

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	23%
Not worried	34%
Don't have mortgage payments	35%

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

Will definitely buy a home	4%
Am considering buying a home	16%
Not looking for a home now	80%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

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

Full-time employed	40%
Part-time employed	11%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	15%
Retired	19%
Permanently disabled	7%
Homemaker	8%
Other	2%

55. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	17%
No	83%

56. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	12%
Somewhat worried	28%
Not very worried	60%

57. 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.	45%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	32%
Not very hard	16%
Not sure	7%

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

More jobs	22%
The same amount of jobs	38%
Fewer jobs	28%
Not sure	12%

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

Very happy	22%
Happy	35%
Neither happy nor unhappy	28%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	6%

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

Higher	17%
Same	67%
Lower	16%

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

I don't have any savings	35%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	17%
I could last a few months on my savings	25%
I could last a year on my savings	9%
I could last more than a year on my savings	15%

62. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

63. 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	14%
Somewhat support	23%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	12%

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

Yes	14%
No	72%
Not Sure	13%

65. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	66%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	2%
Native American	1%
Middle Eastern	0%
Mixed	3%
Other	2%

66. Education

No high school	9%
High school graduate	33%
Some college	25%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

67. What is your marital status?

Married	46%
Separated	2%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	4%
Single	33%
Domestic partnership	4%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

69. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	46%
Somewhat important	22%
Not too important	13%
Not at all important	19%

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

More than once a week	10%
Once a week	21%
Once or twice a month	9%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	20%
Never	28%
Don't know	1%

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

Several times a day	32%
Once a day	18%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	12%
Never	16%
Don't know	2%

72. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	40%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	4%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	5%

73. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	28%
45-64	34%
65+	15%

74. Race

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

75. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	24%
South	35%
West	24%

76. Party Identification

Democrat	39%
Lean Democrat	7%
Independent	16%
Lean Republican	12%
Republican	26%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 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 0.1 to 7.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.97.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.