

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 31-September 2, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.4\%$

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 | 46% |
| Some of the time | 31% |
| Only now and then | 15% |
| Hardly at all | 8% |

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. How much have you heard about the use of chemical weapons in the fighting between government forces and rebels in Syria?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Heard a lot | 49% |
| Heard a little | 44% |
| Heard nothing at all | 7% |

4. Should the U.S. engage in military action to punish the Syrian government for using chemical weapons or should it stay out of the conflict?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Punish the Syrian government | 20% |
| Stay out | 57% |
| Not sure | 23% |

5. Does the interational community have a responsibility to stop nations from using chemical weapons?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 59% |
| No | 18% |
| Not sure | 23% |

6. Do you consider the use of chemical weapons to be a war crime?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 77% |
| No | 10% |
| Not sure | 13% |

7. In today's world, does the United Nations have a responsibility to intervene militarily in trouble spots around the globe, or is this not a responsibility of the United Nations?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Has responsibility to intervene | 53% |
| Has no responsibility to intervene | 22% |
| Not sure | 26% |

8. How should the US respond to events in Syria? Please check all options that you support.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Enforce sanctions | 52% |
| Send humanitarian aid | 45% |
| Evacuate refugees | 36% |
| Impose a "no-fly zone" over Syria | 34% |
| Conduct airstrikes against Syrian government targets | 24% |
| Send in ground forces | 9% |
| None of these | 23% |

9. From what you know, do you think the Syrian government used chemical weapons against its own people?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 58% |
| No | 9% |
| Not sure | 34% |

10. When considering the President's authority to use military force, which statement do you agree with most?

- The President must always get Congressional approval prior to the use of force 41%
- The President should get Congressional approval when possible, but should not be required to get approval in emergencies 38%
- The President, as Commander in Chief, needs broad authority with regard to foreign policy, and therefore should not need approval from Congress 8%
- Not sure 12%

11. The British Parliament voted against using military force in Syria. Were they right or wrong?

- They were right 49%
- They were wrong 17%
- Not sure 34%

12. Will President Obama order military action against the government of Syria?

- Yes 41%
- No 13%
- Not sure 45%

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

- Strongly approve 7%
- Somewhat approve 21%
- Somewhat disapprove 20%
- Strongly disapprove 32%
- No opinion 20%

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Approve | 28% |
| Disapprove | 50% |
| Not sure | 22% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very strong | 15% |
| Somewhat strong | 26% |
| Somewhat weak | 25% |
| Very weak | 35% |

16. Do you think the following people have good judgment?

| | Yes | No | Not sure |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Hillary Clinton | 47% | 38% | 15% |
| Joe Biden | 29% | 49% | 21% |
| Barack Obama | 38% | 49% | 13% |

17. Do you think the following people cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

| | Yes | No | Not sure |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Hillary Clinton | 42% | 42% | 15% |
| Joe Biden | 34% | 46% | 19% |
| Barack Obama | 40% | 49% | 12% |

18. Do you think the following people have strong qualities of leadership?

| | Yes | No | Not sure |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Hillary Clinton | 50% | 35% | 14% |
| Joe Biden | 29% | 49% | 21% |
| Barack Obama | 40% | 50% | 11% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Outstanding | 9% |
| Above Average | 21% |
| Average | 20% |
| Below Average | 14% |
| Poor | 29% |
| Not Sure | 8% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| More than I expected | 14% |
| About what I expected | 34% |
| Less than I expected | 44% |
| Not sure | 8% |

21. How likely is it that...?

| | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Somewhat unlikely | Very unlikely | Not sure |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|
| Congress will pass immigration reform | 7% | 32% | 27% | 15% | 19% |
| Congress will pass a federal budget | 9% | 22% | 24% | 28% | 17% |
| Congress will repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) | 10% | 18% | 25% | 29% | 18% |
| Congress will raise the debt ceiling | 29% | 36% | 11% | 5% | 19% |
| Congress will raise the federal minimum wage | 8% | 29% | 26% | 21% | 15% |

22. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Favor | 43% |
| Oppose | 42% |
| Unsure | 15% |

23. Do you support building more border fences?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Favor | 56% |
| Oppose | 27% |
| Not sure | 17% |

24. Do you believe the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, should be completely repealed, changed a little, changed a lot, or remain unchanged?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Completely repealed | 37% |
| Changed a little | 23% |
| Changed a lot | 14% |
| Remain unchanged | 12% |
| Not sure | 14% |

25. Do you approve or disapprove of the Republicans in Congress using debt ceiling legislation to force President Obama to reduce federal spending?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve | 24% |
| Somewhat approve | 21% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 10% |
| Strongly disapprove | 24% |
| Not sure | 21% |

26. Do you think the federal minimum wage should be changed?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Yes, increased significantly | 30% |
| Yes, increased a little bit | 33% |
| No, it should not be changed | 24% |
| Yes, decreased a little bit | 2% |
| Yes, decreased significantly | 3% |
| Not sure | 7% |

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| Compromises to get things done. | 60% |
| Sticks to their principles, no matter what. | 40% |

28. Do you think the budget disagreement between President Obama and the Republicans in Congress will lead to a shutdown of the federal government, or do you think they will reach an agreement in time to avoid a shutdown?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Government will shutdown | 23% |
| Both sides will agree to a deal | 49% |
| Not sure | 28% |

29. Do you think the disagreement between President Obama and the Republicans in Congress over funding Obamacare will lead to a shutdown of the federal government, or do you think they will reach an agreement in time to avoid a shutdown?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Government will shutdown | 25% |
| Both sides will agree to a deal | 41% |
| Not sure | 35% |

30. 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 Republican Congress?

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| President Obama | 31% |
| Republicans in Congress | 34% |
| Both | 24% |
| Neither | 1% |
| Not sure | 10% |

31. How important are the following issues to you?

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The economy | 74% | 21% | 3% | 1% |
| Immigration | 35% | 38% | 19% | 8% |
| The environment | 35% | 37% | 19% | 10% |
| Terrorism | 49% | 31% | 13% | 7% |
| Gay rights | 17% | 23% | 23% | 36% |
| Education | 52% | 32% | 11% | 5% |
| Health care | 62% | 26% | 9% | 4% |
| Social security | 56% | 31% | 10% | 3% |
| The budget deficit | 50% | 35% | 10% | 4% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 20% | 43% | 26% | 11% |
| Taxes | 56% | 32% | 9% | 3% |
| Medicare | 52% | 32% | 12% | 4% |
| Abortion | 31% | 31% | 20% | 18% |

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

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| The economy | 33% |
| Immigration | 4% |
| The environment | 4% |
| Terrorism | 3% |
| Gay rights | 1% |
| Education | 7% |
| Health care | 16% |
| Social security | 12% |
| The budget deficit | 7% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1% |
| Taxes | 4% |
| Medicare | 4% |
| Abortion | 4% |

33. 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 | 24% | 20% | 10% | 40% | 6% |
| John Boehner | 5% | 20% | 21% | 31% | 24% |
| Mitch McConnell | 3% | 17% | 19% | 26% | 35% |
| Harry Reid | 5% | 17% | 15% | 33% | 31% |
| Nancy Pelosi | 10% | 20% | 11% | 40% | 20% |
| Joe Biden | 19% | 20% | 14% | 34% | 14% |
| Hillary Clinton | 30% | 23% | 12% | 28% | 7% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve | 15% |
| Somewhat approve | 25% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 15% |
| Strongly disapprove | 40% |
| Not sure | 5% |

35. 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 | 13% | 24% | 11% | 41% | 11% |
| Immigration | 13% | 25% | 13% | 35% | 14% |
| The environment | 10% | 27% | 17% | 28% | 18% |
| Terrorism | 17% | 26% | 14% | 29% | 13% |
| Gay rights | 18% | 20% | 10% | 33% | 19% |
| Education | 15% | 27% | 16% | 27% | 15% |
| Health care | 19% | 22% | 9% | 42% | 9% |
| Social security | 12% | 23% | 17% | 31% | 18% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 13% | 28% | 16% | 27% | 15% |
| The budget deficit | 11% | 22% | 13% | 40% | 13% |
| Taxes | 12% | 23% | 14% | 37% | 14% |
| Medicare | 13% | 22% | 17% | 31% | 17% |
| Abortion | 13% | 19% | 11% | 32% | 25% |

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve | 2% |
| Somewhat approve | 11% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 18% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 22% |
| Strongly disapprove | 41% |
| Not sure | 7% |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 6% |
| Liberal | 18% |
| Moderate | 34% |
| Conservative | 29% |
| Very conservative | 9% |
| Not sure | 5% |

38. Would you say Barack Obama is...

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 38% |
| Liberal | 20% |
| Moderate | 23% |
| Conservative | 5% |
| Very conservative | 2% |
| Not sure | 12% |

39. Do you think Barack Obama...

| | |
|---|-----|
| Says what he believes | 38% |
| Says what he thinks people want to hear | 54% |
| Not sure | 8% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot | 31% |
| Like somewhat | 27% |
| Dislike | 33% |
| Not sure | 9% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better | 22% |
| About the same | 36% |
| Getting worse | 36% |
| Not sure | 5% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher | 19% |
| About the same | 36% |
| Lower | 25% |
| Not sure | 21% |

43. 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 | 47% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 35% |
| Not sure | 4% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Owned by you or your family | 61% |
| Rented from someone else | 37% |
| Other | 1% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Increased | 23% |
| Stayed about the same | 41% |
| Decreased | 29% |
| Not sure | 7% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Increased | 32% |
| Stayed about the same | 40% |
| Decreased | 13% |
| Not sure | 15% |

47. 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 | 32% |
| Will stay about the same | 33% |
| Will decrease a little | 11% |
| Will decrease a lot | 5% |
| Not sure | 15% |

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Very worried | 7% |
| Somewhat worried | 25% |
| Not worried | 30% |
| Don't have mortgage payments | 38% |

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Will definitely buy a home | 1% |
| Am considering buying a home | 14% |
| Not looking for a home now | 85% |

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

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 27% |
| No | 73% |

51. Are you registered to vote?

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

52. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Full-time student | 7% |
| Part-time student | 4% |
| Not a student | 89% |

53. Do you have a job outside of school?

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time job | 57% |
| Part-time job | 31% |
| No job outside of school | 12% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Full-time employed | 39% |
| Part-time employed | 14% |
| Self-employed | 0% |
| Unemployed or temporarily on layoff | 12% |
| Retired | 18% |
| Permanently disabled | 8% |
| Homemaker | 8% |
| Other | 1% |

55. Do you currently have more than one job?

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 15% |
| No | 85% |

56. In a typical week, about how many hours do you work for pay?

Mean 17

57. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried 14%
Somewhat worried 29%
Not very worried 58%

58. 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. 40%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.
..... 33%
Not very hard 20%
Not sure 7%

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

More jobs 17%
The same amount of jobs 46%
Fewer jobs 26%
Not sure 11%

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

Very happy 21%
Happy 32%
Neither happy nor unhappy 34%
Unhappy 8%
Very unhappy 5%

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

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Higher | 17% |
| Same | 65% |
| Lower | 17% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| I don't have any savings | 34% |
| I could last a few weeks on my savings | 21% |
| I could last a few months on my savings | 27% |
| I could last a year on my savings | 7% |
| I could last more than a year on my savings | 12% |

63. Gender

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 51% |

64. Education

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| No high school | 11% |
| High school graduate | 31% |
| Some college | 24% |
| 2-year college | 10% |
| 4-year college | 16% |
| Post-graduate | 8% |

65. Age

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-29 | 25% |
| 30-44 | 27% |
| 45-64 | 33% |
| 65+ | 14% |

66. Race

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| White | 66% |
| Black | 14% |
| Hispanic | 12% |
| Other | 8% |

67. Region

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

68. Party Identification

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 37% |
| Lean Democrat | 11% |
| Independent | 18% |
| Lean Republican | 10% |
| Republican | 23% |

The Economist/YouGov Poll



| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | August 31-September 2, 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 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1. |
| Number of respondents | 1000 |
| Margin of error | ± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting) |
| Survey mode | Web-based interviews |
| Questions not reported | 21 questions not reported. |