

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted June 15-17, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.5\%$

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	44%
Some of the time	36%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	57%
Not sure	14%

3. If "data" is the content of an email, "metadata" is information about the data: for example, the identity of the recipient and sender and the time, date, duration and location of a communication. Do you feel like you have a reasonable amount of control over who can access and use your personal data/metadata?

I feel like I have no control over my data/metadata	27%
I feel like I have very little control over my data/metadata	35%
I feel I have some control of my data/metadata	23%
I feel that I have control of my personal data/metadata	6%
Not sure	9%

4. Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee, made the news recently 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	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	22%
Not sure	21%

5. Would you support or oppose the prosecution of Edward Snowden for leaking the information? An extradition order has not yet been issued for Snowden, who was last seen in Hong Kong.

I would support prosecution	27%
I neither support nor oppose	23%
I would oppose his prosecution	32%
Not sure	17%

6. 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?

Asked of half of respondents

Justified as a way to combat terrorism	28%
Unnecessary intrusion into Americans' lives	56%
Not sure	16%

7. As you may know, it has been reported that the National Security Agency has been getting secret court orders to track telephone call records of millions of Americans in an effort to investigate terrorism. Would you consider this access to telephone call records an acceptable or unacceptable way for the federal government to investigate terrorism?

Asked of half of respondents

Acceptable	34%
Unacceptable	43%
Not sure	23%

8. How much have you heard or read about the National Security Agency collecting information about telephone records including the length of phone calls and the numbers called?

A great deal	23%
A fair amount	44%
Not much	26%
Nothing at all	7%

9. 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	10%
Approve somewhat	29%
Disapprove somewhat	23%
Disapprove strongly	24%
Not sure	13%

10. The phone records information has been collected since 2007. How likely do you think it is that this information has prevented a terrorist attack?

Very likely	12%
Somewhat likely	24%
Somewhat unlikely	21%
Very unlikely	25%
Not sure	18%

11. The NSA says that it is not listening in to phone conversations, just looking at the "metadata" of call duration, etc. Do you think the NSA is telling the truth about this, or do you think it is listening in to phone conversations on a regular basis?

Telling the truth	19%
Is listening in on phone conversations on a regular basis	50%
Not sure	31%

12. Do you subscribe to Verizon or to some other telephone service?

Verizon	29%
Some other telephone service	60%
None	11%

13. Since September 11, 2001, the United States has fought against the threat of terrorism through military operations abroad and increased security and surveillance inside of the United States. Do you think these actions have been worth the cost?

Worth cost	35%
Not worth cost	41%
Not sure	24%

14. In general, how well do you think Barack Obama has handled the task of balancing Americans' civil liberties with protecting the country against terrorism?

He has erred too much in the direction of defending against terrorism ...	32%
He has erred too much in the direction of protecting civil liberties	15%
He has struck about the right balance	26%
Not sure	27%

15. Based on *your* understanding of the Constitution, what do you believe the police, FBI, IRS, U.S. Customs, or other authority needs in order to...

	A warrant issued by a judge	A subpoena	A national security letter (NSL)	Permission of a supervisor	No special permission
Listen in on your phone conversations	59%	12%	12%	3%	14%
Read your emails	55%	15%	12%	5%	13%
Examine the contents of your laptop, phone, or computer	65%	14%	8%	3%	10%
Enter your home (without your permission or probable cause)	77%	8%	5%	3%	8%
Track <i>who</i> you communicate with (not <i>what</i> is said)	41%	12%	19%	6%	22%
Access your private social network data	47%	17%	13%	4%	19%
Access your public social network data	38%	14%	9%	4%	35%
See what books you've checked out of a library or what movies you've rented	35%	16%	10%	8%	30%
Track your movements (ex: by attaching a GPS tracker to your car)	61%	9%	12%	5%	12%
Search you on the street (aka <i>stop & frisk</i> without probable cause)	46%	10%	6%	9%	29%
Compelling you to identify yourself	19%	8%	6%	7%	59%
Ask you to provide identification (not at a border or during a traffic stop)	22%	5%	7%	9%	56%
Look inside your car or home through a window	36%	7%	6%	7%	44%

16. Which statement comes closer to your view?

It should be harder for the government to access my private information and communications.	56%
The government needs easier access to everyone's information and communications in order to make us more safe.	10%
The current level of government access to information and communications fairly balances people's 4th Amendment rights with the government's security requirements.	31%
Other	3%

17. Which comes closer to your view of the Patriot Act?

It is a necessary tool that helps the government find terrorists	37%
It goes too far and poses a threat to civil liberties	45%
I don't know	19%

18. Which part of the government do you trust MOST to do what's right?

Congress	6%
The Supreme Court	33%
The President	18%
Political parties	3%
Not sure	41%

19. Which part of the government do you trust LEAST to do what's right?

Congress	25%
The Supreme Court	6%
The President	30%
Political parties	25%
Not sure	15%

20. Do you think the next generation of Americans will have a higher or lower standard of living than people today?

Higher	17%
Lower	56%
Not sure	26%

21. Do you think the foreign policy of the Obama Administration has made the United States more or less safe?

More safe	30%
Less safe	40%
Not sure	31%

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

Approve	34%
Disapprove	45%
Not sure	21%

23. As you may know, the Voting Rights Act was passed in the 1960's to prevent state and local governments from using rules and procedures which prevented many blacks from voting. Do you think the Voting Rights Act is necessary today to make sure that blacks are allowed to vote, or do you think the Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary?

The Voting Rights Act is still necessary	40%
The Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary	45%
Not sure	15%

24. Are you in favor of affirmative action?

Asked of half of respondents

Favor	24%
Oppose	41%
Not sure	35%

25. Are you in favor of affirmative action programs for racial and ethnic minorities?

Asked of half of respondents

Favor	29%
Oppose	44%
Not sure	27%

26. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Strongly favor	31%
Somewhat favor	14%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	33%
Not sure	9%

27. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to same-sex marriage, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	48%
Should only be handled by federal government	34%
Not sure	18%

28. In 1996, the federal government passed a law that says the government will only recognize marriages between a man and a woman. It was called the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. This law means that married same-sex couples could not receive federal benefits when it comes to taxes or entitlements like Social Security and Medicare. The Supreme Court is now hearing arguments on whether this law is constitutional. Several lower courts have said it is not. Do you think the Supreme Court should uphold DOMA and only recognize heterosexual marriages, or should it overturn the law and let the federal government recognize same-sex marriages, too?

This law should be upheld.	40%
This law should be overturned.	44%
Not sure	17%

29. What would be the impact of legalizing same sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?

Benefit	8%
Have no impact	57%
Threaten	35%

30. Do you think gay marriage will be legal in the entire country thirty years from now?

Yes	67%
No	33%

31. Who do you think should be the Republican nominee for President in 2016?

Rand Paul	9%
Chris Christie	16%
Marco Rubio	8%
Jeb Bush	5%
Condoleezza Rice	7%
Paul Ryan	4%
Bobby Jindal	2%
Rick Santorum	3%
Other	6%
Not sure	40%

32. Do you think the Republican Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more conservative or less conservative than Mitt Romney?

More conservative	25%
About the same	24%
Less conservative	32%
Not sure	19%

33. Do you think the United States has a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria between government forces and anti-government rebels, or doesn't the United States have this responsibility?

Has responsibility	19%
Does not have responsibility	56%
Not sure	25%

34. President Obama is sending weapons to the rebels in Syria, saying that there is evidence that the Syrian government used chemical weapons against the rebels. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

Approve strongly	6%
Approve somewhat	23%
Disapprove somewhat	20%
Disapprove strongly	29%
Not sure	21%

35. Which comes closest to your opinion on the current situation in Syria?

The President should have taken action in support of the rebels sooner ..	13%
The President did the right thing in helping the rebels now	18%
The President should have waited longer to send support	8%
The President should not support the rebels in Syria at all	33%
Not sure	29%

36. Which is closer to your own views?

Americans need to give up some freedom and privacy to be safe from terrorism	29%
Americans shouldn't have to give up freedom and privacy to be safe from terrorism	57%
Not sure	14%

37. In its efforts to fight terrorism, do you think the U.S. government has gone too far in restricting civil liberties, has it not gone far enough, or has the balance been about right?

Gone too far	47%
Not gone far enough	9%
The balance is about right	25%
Not sure	19%

38. How much have you heard about Edward Snowden, the government contractor who leaked the top-secret information about National Security Agency surveillance programs?

Heard a lot	31%
Heard a little	55%
Heard nothing at all	13%

39. Based on what you've heard, do you think Edward Snowden did the right thing or the wrong thing when he leaked top-secret information about government surveillance to the media?

The right thing to do	38%
The wrong thing to do	31%
Not sure	31%

40. Do you think that the leak of the information about the government's surveillance program has damaged national security, or not?

Yes	30%
No	45%
Not sure	24%

41. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	72%	23%	3%	2%
Immigration	42%	34%	17%	7%
The environment	39%	33%	16%	12%
Terrorism	45%	32%	14%	8%
Gay rights	20%	23%	24%	33%
Education	53%	32%	10%	5%
Health care	63%	26%	6%	5%
Social security	56%	28%	13%	4%
The budget deficit	52%	30%	11%	7%
The war in Afghanistan	24%	37%	28%	11%
Taxes	58%	29%	9%	4%
Medicare	49%	31%	14%	6%
Abortion	35%	25%	23%	17%

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

The economy	34%
Immigration	4%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	8%
Health care	12%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	4%

43. 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%	12%	36%	7%
John Boehner	5%	20%	17%	33%	25%
Mitch McConnell	4%	17%	16%	23%	39%
Harry Reid	5%	20%	13%	30%	31%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	19%	13%	37%	19%
Joe Biden	21%	21%	13%	33%	12%
Hillary Clinton	33%	21%	12%	26%	8%
John Kerry	14%	27%	19%	23%	18%
Eric Holder	5%	14%	13%	31%	38%
John Roberts	5%	23%	19%	13%	40%
Susan Rice	8%	15%	15%	22%	40%
Bill Clinton	33%	22%	16%	20%	10%

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

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	7%

45. 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	15%	23%	12%	38%	12%
Immigration	13%	24%	15%	34%	16%
The environment	11%	26%	16%	26%	20%
Terrorism	16%	28%	15%	28%	14%
Gay rights	16%	21%	11%	32%	19%
Education	15%	27%	12%	26%	19%
Health care	19%	18%	14%	39%	10%
Social security	11%	24%	17%	32%	16%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	28%	17%	26%	17%
The budget deficit	12%	22%	13%	40%	13%
Taxes	15%	22%	15%	34%	14%
Medicare	12%	23%	15%	32%	18%
Abortion	14%	20%	12%	29%	25%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	9%

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

Very liberal	7%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	28%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	6%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	35%
Liberal	24%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	10%

49. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	30%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	35%	28%
Bold	27%	56%	17%
Effective	24%	47%	28%
Exciting	18%	61%	21%
Experienced	22%	51%	27%
Honest	28%	38%	34%
Hypocritical	36%	37%	27%
Inspiring	31%	49%	20%
Intelligent	54%	34%	13%
Partisan	26%	58%	16%
Patriotic	29%	43%	28%
Religious	13%	58%	29%
Sincere	29%	41%	30%
Steady	27%	57%	17%
Strong	28%	52%	20%

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

Getting better	27%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	30%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	37%
Lower	22%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	52%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	30%
Not sure	3%

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

Increased	30%
Stayed about the same	40%
Decreased	9%
Not sure	20%

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

Yes	25%
No	75%

57. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

58. Education

No high school	9%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	25%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

59. Age

18-29	23%
30-44	32%
45-64	30%
65+	15%

60. Race

White	67%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Other	6%

61. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	19%
South	38%
West	25%

62. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	23%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 15-17, 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 7.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.06.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.