

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted September 6-8, 2014  
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	45%
Some of the time	31%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	10%
Don't know	1%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	17%

**3. How serious a threat do you think the following groups or countries pose to the United States?**

	An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	A minor threat to the U.S.	Not a threat to the U.S.	Not sure
Islamist militants in Iraq (ISIS)	51%	26%	10%	3%	10%
Al Qaeda	40%	32%	14%	5%	9%
Hamas	17%	28%	23%	11%	21%
Pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine	13%	29%	28%	14%	15%
Iran	23%	33%	24%	6%	13%
Islamist militants in Syria (ISIS)	48%	27%	12%	3%	10%
Russia	18%	37%	26%	8%	11%
Syria	18%	31%	25%	11%	15%

**4. How closely are you following the news about the current situation in Iraq?**

Very closely	22%
Somewhat closely	44%
Not very closely	27%
Not at all	8%

**5. Do you favor or oppose cooperating with Iran in order to resolve the current crisis in Iraq?**

Favor strongly	8%
Favor somewhat	32%
Oppose somewhat	17%
Oppose strongly	13%
Not sure	31%

**6. Do you favor or oppose cooperating with Syria in order to resolve the current crisis in Iraq?**

Favor strongly .....	7%
Favor somewhat .....	25%
Oppose somewhat .....	24%
Oppose strongly .....	14%
Not sure .....	30%

**7. Do you think the US government should consider taking any type of action against Islamist militants in Syria ONLY IF the Syrian government approves?**

Yes .....	27%
No .....	35%
Not sure .....	38%

**8. When it comes to US policy in Syria which statement do you agree with most?**

The US should have provided Syrian rebels with more aid sooner .....	26%
The US should not have gotten involved at all .....	38%
The US did the best it could in a difficult situation .....	35%

**9. In dealing with the current situation in Iraq, which of the following things do you think the U.S. should do? (Select all that apply.)**

Send ground troops to fight for the Iraqis .....	6%
Send ground troops to fight with the Iraqis .....	11%
Send military troop trainers to help the Iraqis fight .....	26%
Conduct air strikes against Islamist militants in Iraq .....	50%
Conduct drone strikes against Islamist militants in Iraq .....	52%
Conduct air strikes against Islamist militants in Syria .....	42%
Conduct drone strikes against Islamist militants in Syria .....	50%
Something else .....	9%
None of the above .....	24%

10. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq back in 2003?

Yes ..... 51%  
No ..... 28%  
Not sure ..... 20%

11. Do you think the United States made a mistake withdrawing troops from Iraq back in 2011?

Yes ..... 32%  
No ..... 51%  
Not sure ..... 17%

12. Do you think the United States is making a mistake now by conducting air strikes against ISIS fighters in Iraq?

Yes ..... 14%  
No ..... 64%  
Not sure ..... 22%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the following international crises?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Fighting between ISIS fighters and the government of Iraq	13%	24%	17%	26%	20%
Fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza	10%	18%	20%	30%	23%
Fighting between pro-Russia separatists and the government of Ukraine	11%	22%	19%	25%	22%
Fighting between rebels and the government of Syria	9%	21%	21%	26%	24%

14. Did the financial crisis of 2008 have much of an impact on you personally?

A serious effect	45%
Not a very serious effect.	45%
Not sure	10%

15. In your opinion, has the United States recovered from the financial crisis of 2008?

Has recovered	13%
Has yet to recover	63%
Will never recover	14%
Not sure	10%

16. What do you think are the chances of another financial crisis in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%)	21%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	38%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	22%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	5%
Not sure	13%

17. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from another financial crisis?

More safe	21%
No effect	20%
Less safe	45%
Not sure	14%

18. 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	14%
Equally positive and negative	40%
Mostly negative	29%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	17%

19. 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	7%
Equally positive and negative	29%
Mostly negative	46%
Not discussed the economy at all	19%

20. 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 August 2014?

Unemployment rate <u>decreased</u> by 1% or more	28%
Unemployment rate <u>decreased</u> by between 0% and 1%	14%
Unemployment rate is the same	11%
Unemployment rate <u>increased</u> by between 0% and 1%	6%
Unemployment rate <u>increased</u> by 1% or more	25%
Don't know	16%

21. 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	26%
The same	18%
Lower now	37%
Not sure	18%

22. 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	46%
No, it is beyond the President's control	33%
Don't know	21%

23. 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	57%
Federal government should not be directly involved	28%
Not sure	16%

**24. 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 .....	16%
Very good .....	2%
Good .....	15%
Poor .....	18%
Very poor .....	15%
Not sure .....	7%

**25. 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 .....	58%
Federal government should not be directly involved .....	27%
Not sure .....	15%

**26. 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 .....	27%
Not sure if federal government should be involved .....	15%
Very good .....	2%
Good .....	16%
Poor .....	21%
Very poor .....	12%
Not sure .....	6%



27. 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	5%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat lower</u> than they are today	21%
Unemployment rates will be <u>about the same</u> as they are today	35%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat higher</u> than they are today	15%
Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot higher</u> than they are today	9%
Not sure	15%

28. 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	7%
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	23%
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	8%
Not sure	22%

29. Do you approve or disapprove Presidents using executive orders?

Approve strongly	18%
Approve somewhat	22%
Disapprove somewhat	14%
Disapprove strongly	29%
Not sure	17%

30. From what you know now, do you think executive orders are constitutional or unconstitutional?

Constitutional	28%
Unconstitutional	18%
It depends	39%
Not sure	15%

31. Should Presidents issue executive orders?

Yes .....	47%
No .....	27%
Don't know .....	27%

32. From what you know, do modern Presidents cite the Constitution or laws previously enacted by Congress as the basis for their executive orders?

Yes .....	32%
No .....	28%
Don't know .....	40%

33. Do you approve or disapprove of the executive order which...

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Not sure
Freed all slaves in the states that were in rebellion against the federal government	52%	19%	7%	5%	17%
Established the Works Progress Administration (WPA)	24%	24%	10%	6%	36%
Created military exclusion zones during World War II and allowed for the forcible relocation of Americans of Japanese descent to internment camps	5%	13%	19%	41%	22%
Desegregated the U.S. military	41%	20%	8%	9%	21%
Placed U.S. steel mills facing a strike by union workers under federal control	8%	18%	25%	22%	27%
Restricted all non-governmental organizations that receive federal funding from performing or promoting abortion services as a method of family planning in foreign countries	16%	17%	16%	28%	23%

34. Do you approve or disapprove of the executive order which...

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Not sure
Authorized enhanced interrogation techniques and established military tribunals to try foreign enemy combatants	19%	27%	14%	16%	24%
Directed the Centers for Disease Control to research the causes and prevention of gun violence	20%	19%	17%	28%	16%
Deferred deportation hearings for illegal immigrants who were brought into this country before they were 16 years old, have lived in the U.S. for at least 5 years, must be younger than 30, and have graduated from high school in the U.S. or served in the U.S. military	18%	25%	15%	25%	16%

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

Favor strongly	22%
Favor somewhat	26%
Oppose somewhat	16%
Oppose strongly	27%
Not sure	9%

36. What do you think should happen to the illegal immigrants already living and working in the country who do not have any criminal history?

Create a path to legal citizenship .....	38%
Grant permanent residency but not citizenship .....	13%
Grant only temporary residency .....	15%
Do not grant any legal status .....	26%
Not sure .....	8%

37. Do you support or oppose creating a path to US citizenship for illegal immigrant children who are brought into the country through no fault of their own?

Support strongly .....	27%
Support somewhat .....	25%
Oppose somewhat .....	17%
Oppose strongly .....	20%
Not sure .....	11%

38. How likely is it that Congress will pass immigration reform this year?

Very likely .....	4%
Somewhat likely .....	11%
Somewhat unlikely .....	19%
Very unlikely .....	42%
Not sure .....	23%

39. When it comes to immigration reform, which party do you trust most?

Republican party .....	19%
Democratic party .....	28%
Both equally .....	3%
Neither .....	40%
Not sure .....	9%

40. Have you heard the news that the White House will delay making an announcement about an executive order that is expected to shield more people from deportation proceedings until after the elections in November?

Yes ..... 47%  
 No ..... 53%

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

Expanded ..... 30%  
 Kept the same ..... 14%  
 Repealed ..... 41%  
 Not sure ..... 15%

42. 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 ..... 20%  
 More of a failure than a success ..... 25%  
 Equal amount of both failure and success ..... 16%  
 More of a success than a failure ..... 21%  
 A complete success ..... 4%  
 Too early to tell ..... 6%  
 Not sure ..... 7%

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

Increased ..... 46%  
 Remained the same ..... 19%  
 Decreased ..... 20%  
 Don't know ..... 15%

**44. 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 ..... 45%

The law has not had an effect on health insurance prices for most people 18%

The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase less than they usually do ..... 16%

Not sure ..... 22%

**45. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	20%	4%	1%
Immigration	46%	34%	15%	4%
The environment	42%	35%	16%	6%
Terrorism	61%	28%	8%	3%
Gay rights	19%	25%	24%	32%
Education	59%	31%	9%	2%
Health care	66%	28%	4%	2%
Social security	64%	29%	6%	1%
The budget deficit	56%	32%	8%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	43%	23%	6%
Taxes	57%	33%	9%	2%
Medicare	53%	35%	10%	2%
Abortion	32%	36%	21%	11%
Foreign policy	43%	40%	15%	3%

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

The economy	28%
Immigration	5%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	11%
Gay rights	1%
Education	7%
Health care	10%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	2%
Foreign policy	2%

47. 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%	14%	37%	5%
Joe Biden	16%	25%	16%	29%	15%
John Boehner	3%	19%	23%	31%	24%
Mitch McConnell	4%	15%	20%	26%	36%
Harry Reid	6%	19%	13%	31%	31%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	18%	12%	38%	23%
John Kerry	12%	27%	17%	26%	18%



48. 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	10%	23%	16%	22%	29%
Chris Christie	7%	22%	25%	23%	23%
Paul Ryan	13%	22%	14%	25%	26%
Jeb Bush	9%	22%	21%	26%	21%
Mike Huckabee	13%	22%	15%	21%	29%
Marco Rubio	10%	21%	15%	19%	35%
Hillary Clinton	26%	24%	12%	30%	8%
Elizabeth Warren	16%	13%	13%	18%	40%
Ted Cruz	11%	16%	12%	28%	34%
Scott Walker	12%	12%	10%	19%	47%
Brian Schweitzer	3%	9%	8%	9%	71%
Rick Perry	9%	20%	15%	29%	27%

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

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	5%

50. 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%	18%	36%	8%
Immigration	11%	24%	16%	39%	10%
The environment	13%	28%	16%	27%	16%
Terrorism	17%	25%	16%	31%	11%
Gay rights	15%	23%	13%	26%	22%
Education	15%	29%	16%	23%	16%
Health care	20%	22%	14%	38%	6%
Social security	13%	21%	19%	28%	18%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	25%	21%	29%	11%
The budget deficit	14%	19%	19%	38%	10%
Taxes	13%	22%	19%	33%	12%
Medicare	13%	24%	19%	29%	15%
Abortion	13%	20%	13%	28%	26%
Foreign policy	12%	25%	18%	33%	12%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

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

Very liberal .....	6%
Liberal .....	19%
Moderate .....	35%
Conservative .....	29%
Very conservative .....	9%
Not sure .....	2%

**53. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal .....	35%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	23%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	13%

**54. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	52%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Like a lot .....	30%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	32%
Not sure .....	9%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	36%	26%
Bold	20%	61%	19%
Effective	18%	50%	32%
Exciting	11%	66%	23%
Experienced	15%	54%	31%
Honest	26%	38%	36%
Hypocritical	35%	45%	20%
Inspiring	25%	50%	25%
Intelligent	50%	36%	14%
Partisan	23%	66%	10%
Patriotic	25%	47%	28%
Religious	12%	61%	27%
Sincere	28%	43%	30%
Steady	25%	57%	18%
Strong	24%	51%	25%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	41%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	6%

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

More jobs	16%
The same amount of jobs	49%
Fewer jobs	25%
Not sure	10%

59. 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 .....	7%
Military Household - I served previously .....	11%
Military Household - Family served previously .....	35%
Military Household - None .....	49%

60. Gender

Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%

61. 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 .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	25%
Not sure .....	17%

62. Education

No high school .....	8%
High school graduate .....	32%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	11%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	8%

**63. Age**

18-29	25%
30-44	26%
45-64	34%
65+	16%

**64. Race**

White	67%
Black	15%
Hispanic	10%
Other	8%

**65. Region**

Northeast	19%
Midwest	24%
South	38%
West	20%

**66. Party Identification**

Democratic	39%
Independent	33%
Republican	28%

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

Yes	71%
No	26%
Don't know	3%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	September 6-8, 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 0.1 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.97.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.3% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	21 questions not reported.