

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 20-22, 2014
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	46%
Some of the time	31%
Only now and then	14%
Hardly at all	9%
Don't know	1%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	28%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	13%

3. Do you consider Cuba to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

Ally of U.S.	3%
Friendly	16%
Unfriendly	37%
Enemy of the U.S.	19%
Not sure	25%

4. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Fidel Castro?

Very favorable	3%
Somewhat favorable	6%
Somewhat unfavorable	28%
Very unfavorable	50%
Don't know	14%

5. Would you say Fidel Castro was a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	33%
Somewhat strong	41%
Somewhat weak	18%
Very weak	8%

6. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Raul Castro?

Very favorable	2%
Somewhat favorable	15%
Somewhat unfavorable	22%
Very unfavorable	26%
Don't know	36%

7. Would you say Raul Castro is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	9%
Somewhat strong	55%
Somewhat weak	30%
Very weak	6%

8. Do you think that people in Cuba have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the United States?

Very favorable	11%
Somewhat favorable	36%
Somewhat unfavorable	26%
Very unfavorable	7%
Don't know	21%

9. Do you favor or oppose having the United States re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba?

Favor	49%
Oppose	24%
Not sure	27%

10. Should U.S. citizens be allowed to travel to Cuba?

Yes, they should be allowed to travel without restrictions.	55%
Yes, but only if they travel as part of religious, cultural, or academic groups.	11%
No, they should not be allowed to travel to Cuba.	15%
Not sure	19%

11. Currently, there is an embargo on U.S. trade with Cuba. Should Americans be allowed to buy products from Cuba?

Yes	55%
No	25%
Not sure	21%

12. Should Americans be allowed to send money to Cuban citizens who are not members of the Castro government or the Communist Party?

Yes	55%
No	22%
Not sure	23%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's handling of Cuba?

Approve strongly	20%
Approve somewhat	21%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Disapprove somewhat	7%
Disapprove strongly	22%
Not sure	12%

14. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia?

Very favorable	4%
Somewhat favorable	7%
Somewhat unfavorable	25%
Very unfavorable	48%
Don't know	16%

15. Would you say Vladimir Putin is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	39%
Somewhat strong	39%
Somewhat weak	14%
Very weak	8%

16. Since Vladimir Putin became the Russian leader, do you think Russia has become more friendly towards the United States, less friendly to the United States, or has there been no change in relations?

More friendly	4%
No change	18%
Less friendly	63%
Not sure	15%

17. Do you think Vladimir Putin poses a threat to the United States?

Yes	52%
No	23%
Not sure	25%

18. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama’s handling of Russia?

Approve strongly	11%
Approve somewhat	16%
Neither approve nor disapprove	20%
Disapprove somewhat	12%
Disapprove strongly	27%
Not sure	14%

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

Expanded	28%
Kept the same	16%
Repealed	43%
Not sure	13%

20. 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	19%
More of a failure than a success	22%
Equal amount of both failure and success	20%
More of a success than a failure	24%
A complete success	4%
Too early to tell	5%
Not sure	6%

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

Increased	52%
Remained the same	17%
Decreased	17%
Don’t know	14%

22. 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 48%
 The law has not had an effect on health insurance prices for most people 20%
 The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase less than they usually do 17%
 Not sure 15%

23. Did you have health insurance for all of 2013?

Yes 79%
 No 21%

24. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	23%	1%	0%
Immigration	47%	38%	11%	3%
The environment	43%	33%	15%	8%
Terrorism	59%	27%	10%	4%
Gay rights	25%	22%	24%	30%
Education	58%	30%	8%	4%
Health care	66%	27%	6%	1%
Social security	63%	27%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	54%	32%	11%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	33%	41%	21%	5%
Taxes	59%	34%	6%	1%
Medicare	55%	29%	13%	4%
Abortion	36%	33%	18%	13%
Foreign policy	41%	46%	11%	3%

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

The economy	30%
Immigration	6%
The environment	7%
Terrorism	8%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	10%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	3%
Foreign policy	2%

26. 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%	21%	14%	37%	4%
Joe Biden	16%	24%	16%	30%	14%
John Boehner	5%	15%	23%	36%	22%
Mitch McConnell	5%	16%	19%	30%	30%
Harry Reid	5%	19%	13%	36%	28%
Nancy Pelosi	7%	21%	12%	41%	19%

27. 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	13%	24%	17%	18%	29%
Chris Christie	9%	23%	22%	23%	23%
Paul Ryan	12%	23%	14%	25%	26%
Jeb Bush	9%	21%	20%	27%	22%
Mike Huckabee	12%	20%	15%	24%	29%
Marco Rubio	11%	21%	13%	21%	33%
Hillary Clinton	25%	22%	9%	36%	7%
Elizabeth Warren	17%	12%	12%	20%	38%
Ted Cruz	13%	15%	14%	28%	31%
Scott Walker	14%	10%	11%	20%	45%
Brian Schweitzer	3%	9%	8%	7%	73%
Rick Perry	12%	17%	13%	27%	31%
Bernie Sanders	13%	10%	13%	13%	51%
Martin O'Malley	3%	9%	10%	9%	70%
Jim Webb	4%	11%	11%	8%	66%
Mitt Romney	16%	22%	19%	30%	12%
Lindsey Graham	5%	13%	17%	22%	44%
Ben Carson	16%	12%	9%	11%	52%

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

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	4%

29. 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%	23%	16%	36%	8%
Immigration	18%	24%	11%	39%	7%
The environment	16%	29%	11%	30%	14%
Terrorism	18%	25%	14%	34%	9%
Gay rights	20%	24%	8%	30%	17%
Education	14%	28%	15%	29%	15%
Health care	22%	24%	11%	39%	5%
Social security	15%	21%	16%	29%	19%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	26%	18%	32%	11%
The budget deficit	15%	19%	16%	38%	12%
Taxes	12%	26%	16%	34%	12%
Medicare	17%	22%	15%	30%	16%
Abortion	14%	21%	9%	30%	26%
Foreign policy	14%	24%	13%	36%	13%

30. 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	19%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	8%

31. Are you better off now than you were when President Obama first took office in 2009?

Better off now	24%
About the same	33%
Worse off now	39%
Not sure	4%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	24%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	9%

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

Very strong	16%
Somewhat strong	26%
Somewhat weak	26%
Very weak	32%

34. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	32%
Not sure	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	40%	33%	28%
Bold	25%	55%	20%
Effective	18%	47%	35%
Exciting	13%	60%	28%
Experienced	18%	49%	33%
Honest	26%	37%	37%
Hypocritical	40%	36%	25%
Inspiring	28%	45%	27%
Intelligent	52%	31%	17%
Partisan	25%	62%	13%
Patriotic	23%	46%	31%
Religious	11%	58%	31%
Sincere	29%	40%	31%
Steady	23%	54%	23%
Strong	22%	45%	34%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	37%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	1%

38. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	70%
No	26%
Don't know	4%

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

Not a registered voter	30%
The Democratic Party candidate	26%
The Republican Party candidate	25%
Other	4%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	1%

40. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the member of the US House of Representatives that represents your Congressional district is handling his or her job?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	17%
Neither approve nor disapprove	22%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	17%
Not sure	18%

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

Getting better	31%
About the same	31%
Getting worse	30%
Not sure	8%

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

More jobs	26%
The same amount of jobs	38%
Fewer jobs	20%
Not sure	16%

43. 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	1%
Military Household - Family	7%
Military Household - I served previously	9%
Military Household - Family served previously	38%
Military Household - None	49%

44. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

45. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?

Strongly support	15%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	27%
Not sure	15%

46. Education

No high school	11%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	25%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

47. Age

18-29	23%
30-44	27%
45-64	34%
65+	16%

48. Race

White	68%
Black	14%
Hispanic	11%
Other	7%

49. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	24%
South	36%
West	21%

50. Party Identification

Democratic	39%
Independent	36%
Republican	25%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 20-22, 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 4.2, 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.