

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 28-30, 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	45%
Some of the time	30%
Only now and then	14%
Hardly at all	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	15%

3. How do you feel about your family's future in the upcoming year?

Very optimistic	11%
Somewhat optimistic	28%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	32%
Somewhat pessimistic	20%
Very pessimistic	10%

4. Which describes your views on the U.S. economy in the new year?

Very optimistic	6%
Somewhat optimistic	23%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	25%
Somewhat pessimistic	31%
Very pessimistic	16%

5. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2014 will be for the world?

Very optimistic	9%
Somewhat optimistic	24%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	25%
Somewhat pessimistic	28%
Very pessimistic	14%

6. In 2014, do you think things will be better off or worse off than they were in 2013 when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	2%	9%	33%	27%	21%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	4%	17%	42%	18%	10%	9%
Energy issues	5%	19%	37%	18%	13%	8%
The environment	4%	15%	48%	17%	8%	7%
The economy in your area	6%	23%	34%	20%	12%	4%
Job security	4%	17%	33%	22%	18%	6%
Government spending	3%	11%	27%	21%	31%	7%
Health care coverage	11%	18%	15%	18%	33%	5%
Education	4%	13%	43%	20%	14%	6%
Social Security and Medicare	4%	9%	34%	28%	18%	6%
The U.S. financial system	4%	16%	26%	24%	23%	7%
Wall Street	6%	16%	38%	18%	10%	12%

7. Looking ahead to 2014, how much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	4%	11%	16%	59%	10%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	11%	16%	15%	50%	9%
Improving the economy	7%	20%	20%	45%	8%

8. In the next year, do you think Barack Obama will accomplish...

More than I expect	10%
About what I expect	37%
Less than I expect	39%
Not sure	14%

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

Outstanding	9%
Above Average	16%
Average	19%
Below Average	14%
Poor	38%
Not Sure	4%

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

Very strong	12%
Somewhat strong	30%
Somewhat weak	20%
Very weak	38%

11. In 2014, do you think the Congress will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	6%
About the same	43%
Less than usual	39%
Not sure	12%

12. In 2014, do you think the Congress will accomplish more or less than what they accomplished in 2013?

More than 2013	11%
About the same as 2013	50%
Less than 2013	24%
Not sure	15%

13. 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	30%
More of a failure than a success	19%
Equal amount of both failure and success	15%
More of a success than a failure	16%
A complete success	3%
Too early to tell	11%
Not sure	5%

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

We will never really know	12%
We will know after the law has been in effect for several years	24%
We will know after the law has been in effect for one year	23%
We will know in a few months when we find out how many people have enrolled	14%
We know now even before the law has been put into effect	27%

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

Yes	24%
No	72%
Not sure	4%

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

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

Very positive	14%
Somewhat positive	12%
Neither positive nor negative	18%
Somewhat negative	20%
Very negative	34%
Not sure	2%

17. Which month did you visit healthcare.gov?

October	27%
November	29%
December	34%
Don't remember	9%

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

Expanded	22%
Kept the same	14%
Repealed	44%
Not sure	20%

19. Do you have health insurance?

Yes	76%
No	24%

20. Will you buy a health insurance plan before the deadline or will you pay the fine instead?
Asked of those who do not have health insurance

Buy health insurance	14%
Pay the fine	32%
Already signed up	7%
Not sure	48%

21. Which of the following countries do you consider to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Romania	9%	38%	9%	2%	41%
Norway	27%	44%	2%	1%	25%
Iceland	23%	47%	2%	1%	26%
New Zealand	34%	39%	2%	2%	24%
Austria	23%	45%	3%	2%	27%
South Sudan	3%	12%	29%	12%	44%
Malaysia	5%	30%	14%	3%	48%

22. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	73%	24%	3%	1%
Immigration	41%	37%	16%	6%
The environment	39%	38%	15%	8%
Terrorism	49%	31%	13%	7%
Gay rights	17%	22%	24%	37%
Education	54%	31%	11%	4%
Health care	62%	28%	8%	2%
Social security	61%	29%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	51%	30%	13%	7%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	40%	22%	8%
Taxes	58%	30%	10%	2%
Medicare	53%	33%	11%	3%
Abortion	31%	28%	23%	18%

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

The economy	30%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	1%
Education	9%
Health care	9%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	6%
Abortion	3%

24. 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	25%	17%	11%	41%	6%
Joe Biden	17%	22%	14%	34%	12%
John Boehner	4%	18%	22%	33%	22%
Mitch McConnell	3%	16%	21%	28%	32%
Harry Reid	7%	17%	13%	34%	28%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	19%	14%	40%	16%
Hillary Clinton	28%	19%	12%	32%	8%
Chris Christie	11%	30%	22%	16%	22%

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

Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	15%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	4%

26. 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%	14%	40%	8%
Immigration	13%	22%	19%	34%	12%
The environment	12%	28%	19%	24%	17%
Terrorism	17%	26%	16%	30%	11%
Gay rights	16%	21%	12%	28%	24%
Education	14%	27%	18%	27%	14%
Health care	19%	19%	11%	44%	7%
Social security	13%	24%	18%	31%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	25%	22%	28%	14%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	17%	41%	10%
Taxes	12%	25%	18%	35%	11%
Medicare	14%	23%	17%	33%	13%
Abortion	12%	19%	13%	28%	28%

27. 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	16%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	6%

28. 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	11%	23%	19%	38%	9%
Republicans in Congress	4%	20%	27%	40%	9%

29. 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	14%	23%	19%	36%	9%
The Republican Party	5%	23%	24%	38%	9%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	32%
The Republican Party candidate	27%
Other	7%
Not sure	23%
I would not vote	12%

31. 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	34%
The Republican Party candidate	29%
Other	3%
Not sure	23%
I would not vote	11%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	31%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	2%

33. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	37%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	7%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	11%

34. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	35%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	55%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	27%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	37%
Not sure	9%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	44%	32%	24%
Bold	26%	57%	17%
Effective	15%	51%	34%
Exciting	13%	61%	26%
Experienced	16%	51%	33%
Honest	25%	37%	38%
Hypocritical	38%	39%	23%
Inspiring	27%	46%	27%
Intelligent	46%	39%	16%
Partisan	28%	59%	13%
Patriotic	24%	45%	32%
Religious	12%	61%	27%
Sincere	27%	40%	33%
Steady	24%	55%	21%
Strong	26%	46%	28%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	34%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	37%
Lower	18%
Not sure	25%

39. 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	34%
Not sure	4%

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

Owned by you or your family	61%
Rented from someone else	35%
Other	4%

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

Increased	25%
Stayed about the same	47%
Decreased	21%
Not sure	7%

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

Increased	33%
Stayed about the same	41%
Decreased	7%
Not sure	20%

43. 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	30%
Will stay about the same	36%
Will decrease a little	9%
Will decrease a lot	2%
Not sure	18%

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

Very worried	6%
Somewhat worried	21%
Not worried	34%
Don't have mortgage payments	40%

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

Will definitely buy a home	5%
Am considering buying a home	12%
Not looking for a home now	83%

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

Yes	26%
No	74%

47. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	67%
No	24%
Don't know	9%

48. 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	12%
Retired	18%
Permanently disabled	6%
Homemaker	10%
Other	4%

49. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	30%
Not very worried	61%

50. 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.	38%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	39%
Not very hard	15%
Not sure	8%

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

More jobs	20%
The same amount of jobs	40%
Fewer jobs	29%
Not sure	11%

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

Very happy	21%
Happy	39%
Neither happy nor unhappy	28%
Unhappy	9%
Very unhappy	3%

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

Higher	18%
Same	65%
Lower	17%

54. 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	18%
I could last a few months on my savings	26%
I could last a year on my savings	9%
I could last more than a year on my savings	12%

55. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

56. 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	15%
Somewhat support	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	17%

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

Yes	14%
No	67%
Not Sure	18%

58. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	68%
Black	14%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	3%
Native American	1%
Middle Eastern	0%
Mixed	2%
Other	1%

59. Education

No high school	11%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	24%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

60. What is your marital status?

Married	45%
Separated	2%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	4%
Single	33%
Domestic partnership	5%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

62. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	41%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	20%

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

More than once a week	9%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	15%
Seldom	19%
Never	30%
Don't know	3%

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

Several times a day	30%
Once a day	14%
A few times a week	11%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	8%
Seldom	14%
Never	17%
Don't know	3%

65. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	39%
Roman Catholic	19%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	19%
Something else	5%

66. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	28%
45-64	33%
65+	15%

67. Race

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

68. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	23%
South	40%
West	21%

69. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	23%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	24%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 28-30, 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 5.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.98.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.