

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 13-15, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.8\%$

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	38%
Only now and then	11%
Hardly at all	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	15%

3. Edward Snowden, a former NSA 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	15%
Somewhat favorable	22%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	28%
Not sure	18%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of Snowden’s decision to leak information about U.S. surveillance activities?

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	15%
Strongly disapprove	30%
Not sure	14%

5. Should Snowden seek or accept political asylum in one of the countries listed below? Please check all that apply.

Russia	21%
Bolivia	16%
Venezuela	19%
Nicaragua	12%
None of these	65%

6. 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
Russia	4%	19%	36%	14%	27%
Czech Republic	10%	29%	17%	4%	41%
Peru	5%	35%	15%	2%	43%
Bolivia	3%	19%	27%	5%	45%
Colombia	6%	26%	23%	7%	37%
Venezuela	2%	16%	33%	18%	32%
Panama	13%	38%	12%	2%	36%
Nicaragua	3%	19%	30%	7%	40%

7. Would you support or oppose the prosecution of Edward Snowden for leaking the information?

I would support prosecution	36%
I neither support nor oppose	24%
I would oppose his prosecution	25%
Not sure	14%

8. 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	14%
Approve somewhat	27%
Disapprove somewhat	23%
Disapprove strongly	26%
Not sure	10%

9. 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	15%
Somewhat likely	27%
Somewhat unlikely	20%
Very unlikely	23%
Not sure	15%

10. 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	20%
Is listening in on phone conversations on a regular basis	52%
Not sure	27%

11. How likely is it that...?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Not sure
Congress will pass immigration reform	7%	29%	27%	17%	20%
Congress will pass a federal budget	9%	20%	22%	29%	20%
Congress will repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)	10%	21%	23%	27%	19%
The Senate will alter the filibuster	9%	21%	21%	16%	33%

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

Favor	46%
Oppose	39%
Unsure	15%

13. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor	58%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	17%

14. If you had to choose, which of the following measures would you prefer in order to balance the federal budget deficit?

Increase taxes	9%
Decrease government spending	53%
Both	30%
Neither	7%

15. Do you believe the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, should be completely repealed, changed a little, changed a lot, remain unchanged, or are you not sure?

Completely repealed	32%
Changed a little	24%
Changed a lot	15%
Remain unchanged	12%
Not sure	16%

16. Some people have suggested eliminating the filibuster procedure in the U.S. Senate so that all that would be needed to pass legislation would be a simple majority of votes, 51 out of 100. Generally speaking, do you think that this is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea	35%
Bad idea	31%
Not sure	34%

17. How much power do the following groups have to influence the decisions made by the federal government – a great deal, some, not much or none?

	A great deal	Some	Not much	None	Not sure
Big Business Groups	55%	23%	5%	6%	10%
Labor Unions	35%	34%	14%	7%	10%
Pro-life activists	14%	36%	26%	12%	12%
Pro-choice activists	20%	37%	23%	9%	12%
Traditional family values groups	14%	33%	27%	15%	11%
Gay and Lesbian rights groups	21%	36%	21%	11%	11%
Developers	25%	38%	10%	8%	19%
Environmentalists	21%	39%	22%	8%	10%
The National Rifle Association (NRA)	34%	35%	13%	7%	11%
Gun control advocates	24%	36%	19%	10%	10%
Republican party	31%	39%	13%	7%	9%
Democratic party	39%	38%	8%	5%	10%

18. How closely have you been following the trial of George Zimmerman, who has been charged with killing Trayvon Martin?

Very closely	24%
Somewhat closely	36%
Only a little	27%
Not at all	11%
Not sure	2%

19. Do you think George Zimmerman, the man who shot Trayvon Martin and claims he acted in self-defense, should be convicted of second degree murder, manslaughter, or acquitted of all charges?

Convicted of second degree murder	20%
Convicted of manslaughter	26%
Acquitted of all charges	33%
Not sure	21%

20. There is a law in Florida – the Stand Your Ground law – that allows individuals to use deadly force if they believe they or others are threatened. They can do this both inside and outside their homes. There is no need for the individual to attempt to get away from the threat first. Some people say that this law is necessary to ensure that people can protect themselves without threat of prosecution. Other people say that the law encourages violence and can cause innocent people to get hurt. What do you think about this law?

I support the law	36%
I support the idea behind the law but only if individuals are being attacked in their homes	35%
I do not support the law	19%
Not sure	11%

21. Moving onto a new topic... How closely have you been following this year's Tour de France?

Very closely	2%
Somewhat closely	4%
Only a little	12%
Not at all	80%
Not sure	2%

22. How many riders in the Tour de France do you think use performance-enhancing drugs?

None	3%
Some	25%
Many	17%
Most	16%
All	8%
Not sure	31%

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

Chris Christie	17%
Rand Paul	9%
Marco Rubio	5%
Rick Perry	3%
Jeb Bush	6%
Bobby Jindal	2%
Paul Ryan	6%
Rick Santorum	4%
Scott Walker	1%
Nikki Haley	1%
Other	8%
Not sure	38%

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

More conservative	24%
About the same	24%
Less conservative	35%
Not sure	17%

25. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	79%	17%	3%	2%
Immigration	40%	36%	16%	8%
The environment	40%	36%	16%	9%
Terrorism	49%	30%	14%	7%
Gay rights	19%	22%	24%	35%
Education	56%	30%	10%	5%
Health care	62%	27%	7%	3%
Social security	60%	28%	8%	4%
The budget deficit	60%	25%	10%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	31%	26%	14%
Taxes	62%	29%	6%	3%
Medicare	53%	32%	11%	3%
Abortion	32%	31%	20%	17%

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

The economy	36%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	12%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%

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
Barack Obama	26%	17%	12%	38%	6%
John Boehner	7%	18%	19%	31%	25%
Mitch McConnell	4%	15%	16%	28%	36%
Harry Reid	7%	19%	12%	31%	31%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	22%	9%	40%	17%
Joe Biden	22%	21%	11%	34%	12%
Hillary Clinton	29%	24%	11%	30%	7%
John Kerry	15%	25%	14%	30%	17%

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	14%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	5%

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%	22%	13%	37%	10%
Immigration	17%	23%	12%	36%	12%
The environment	14%	26%	14%	28%	17%
Terrorism	22%	23%	15%	27%	12%
Gay rights	20%	22%	9%	30%	19%
Education	17%	26%	13%	29%	15%
Health care	20%	21%	11%	40%	8%
Social security	15%	21%	15%	31%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	17%	25%	20%	25%	13%
The budget deficit	16%	19%	13%	40%	11%
Taxes	15%	24%	13%	37%	11%
Medicare	16%	21%	15%	32%	16%
Abortion	15%	21%	11%	31%	22%

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	18%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	38%
Conservative	27%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	5%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	22%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	12%

33. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	34%	28%
Bold	29%	54%	17%
Effective	21%	47%	32%
Exciting	17%	62%	21%
Experienced	23%	48%	29%
Honest	27%	38%	35%
Hypocritical	36%	40%	25%
Inspiring	32%	46%	23%
Intelligent	54%	32%	14%
Partisan	27%	55%	17%
Patriotic	26%	47%	27%
Religious	15%	59%	27%
Sincere	32%	42%	27%
Steady	26%	57%	17%
Strong	28%	50%	22%

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

Getting better	28%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	28%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	38%
Lower	18%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	18%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	31%
Not sure	4%

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

Increased	37%
Stayed about the same	36%
Decreased	12%
Not sure	15%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

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

More jobs	22%
The same amount of jobs	42%
Fewer jobs	26%
Not sure	10%

42. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

43. Education

No high school	9%
High school graduate	33%
Some college	23%
2-year college	11%
4-year college	14%
Post-graduate	10%

44. Age

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

45. Race

White	67%
Black	14%
Hispanic	11%
Other	8%

46. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	22%

47. Party Identification

Democrat	38%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	21%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	24%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 13-15, 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 1.16.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.