

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted September 13-15, 2014
Margin of Error ±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	48%
Some of the time	30%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	8%
Don't know	1%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	63%
Not sure	11%

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%	11%	4%	8%
Al Qaeda	35%	35%	16%	3%	11%
Hamas	17%	26%	25%	13%	19%
Pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine	10%	25%	28%	21%	16%
Iran	18%	34%	23%	10%	15%
Islamist militants in Syria (ISIS)	48%	29%	10%	4%	9%
Russia	13%	36%	26%	11%	13%
Syria	18%	31%	22%	13%	16%

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

Very closely	25%
Somewhat closely	42%
Not very closely	26%
Not at all	6%

5. 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	15%
Send military troop trainers to help the Iraqis fight	28%
Conduct air strikes against Islamist militants in Iraq	54%
Conduct drone strikes against Islamist militants in Iraq	51%
Conduct air strikes against Islamist militants in Syria	47%
Conduct drone strikes against Islamist militants in Syria	49%
Something else	12%
None of the above	19%

6. Did you watch President Obama’s speech about Iraq and Syria?

Yes	31%
No	66%
Don’t remember	3%

7. Do you think President Obama should or should not seek congressional approval for conducting military operations against Islamist insurgents in Iraq and Syria?

Should	63%
Should not	16%
Not sure	21%

8. If Congress were to vote on whether or not to authorize the use of military force against Islamist insurgents in Iraq and Syria, would you want your member of Congress to support or oppose the authorization?

Support	57%
Oppose	17%
Not sure	25%

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

Yes 49%
No 34%
Not sure 17%

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

Yes 38%
No 46%
Not sure 16%

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

Very strong 14%
Somewhat strong 27%
Somewhat weak 24%
Very weak 36%

12. 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	14%	21%	16%	29%	20%
Fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza	11%	19%	19%	28%	23%
Fighting between pro-Russia separatists and the government of Ukraine	14%	21%	16%	26%	23%
Fighting between rebels and the government of Syria	10%	24%	16%	28%	22%

13. Have you been following the news about an election to decide whether or not Scotland will become an independent country?

Yes 43%
 No 57%

14. Do you think Scotland should remain part of the United Kingdom or should it become an independent country?

Remain in the UK 28%
 Become an independent country 28%
 Don't know 44%

15. Do you think Scotland would be economically better off or worse off if it became an independent country, or would it make no difference?

Better off	15%
Worse off	26%
No difference	19%
Don't know	40%

16. Do you think Quebec should remain a part of Canada or do you think it should become an independent country?

Remain in Canada	55%
Become an independent country	11%
Don't know	33%

17. Do you think the Kurds should remain a part of Iraq or do you think they should become an independent country?

Remain in Iraq	20%
Become an independent country	36%
Don't know	44%

18. Do you think a US state or group of states should be allowed to leave the Union if a majority of the residents of those states voted to secede?

Yes	26%
No	49%
Not sure	25%

19. Do you think your state would be economically better off or worse off if it became an independent country, or would it make no difference?

Better off	16%
Worse off	46%
No difference	15%
Don't know	23%

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

Expanded	31%
Kept the same	9%
Repealed	46%
Not sure	14%

21. 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	24%
Equal amount of both failure and success	20%
More of a success than a failure	19%
A complete success	3%
Too early to tell	7%
Not sure	7%

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

Increased	42%
Remained the same	18%
Decreased	20%
Don't know	20%

23. 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	47%
The law has not had an effect on health insurance prices for most people	17%
The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase less than they usually do	15%
Not sure	22%

24. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	74%	22%	2%	2%
Immigration	50%	34%	12%	5%
The environment	39%	35%	18%	7%
Terrorism	55%	29%	11%	5%
Gay rights	19%	27%	24%	31%
Education	63%	28%	6%	3%
Health care	63%	31%	3%	3%
Social security	62%	30%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	56%	30%	10%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	27%	42%	24%	8%
Taxes	56%	36%	7%	2%
Medicare	52%	35%	9%	4%
Abortion	32%	32%	21%	15%
Foreign policy	43%	41%	10%	6%

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

The economy	25%
Immigration	9%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	10%
Gay rights	2%
Education	9%
Health care	7%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	2%
Abortion	4%
Foreign policy	1%

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	22%	21%	12%	39%	6%
Joe Biden	15%	25%	17%	29%	14%
John Boehner	5%	21%	18%	32%	24%
Mitch McConnell	4%	18%	17%	28%	34%
Harry Reid	6%	14%	13%	36%	31%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	17%	14%	39%	20%
John Kerry	10%	27%	18%	27%	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	11%	27%	15%	20%	27%
Chris Christie	8%	27%	24%	21%	21%
Paul Ryan	14%	24%	13%	25%	24%
Jeb Bush	8%	24%	20%	22%	26%
Mike Huckabee	15%	22%	14%	21%	28%
Marco Rubio	11%	21%	13%	22%	33%
Hillary Clinton	22%	27%	13%	31%	8%
Elizabeth Warren	16%	13%	10%	21%	39%
Ted Cruz	14%	20%	9%	27%	30%
Scott Walker	15%	16%	5%	19%	44%
Brian Schweitzer	4%	9%	7%	9%	72%
Rick Perry	13%	23%	13%	27%	23%

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

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	6%

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	13%	23%	18%	37%	9%
Immigration	12%	17%	17%	39%	14%
The environment	12%	28%	14%	26%	20%
Terrorism	16%	24%	17%	31%	12%
Gay rights	17%	24%	11%	24%	23%
Education	13%	26%	19%	26%	17%
Health care	19%	19%	15%	39%	8%
Social security	12%	22%	17%	26%	22%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	23%	21%	29%	14%
The budget deficit	14%	17%	16%	38%	15%
Taxes	12%	21%	15%	36%	16%
Medicare	15%	22%	17%	27%	18%
Abortion	14%	20%	11%	26%	30%
Foreign policy	11%	22%	17%	36%	14%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	10%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	32%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	1%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	4%
Not sure	11%

33. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	50%
Not sure	13%

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

Like a lot	27%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	31%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	34%	29%
Bold	20%	61%	20%
Effective	16%	49%	35%
Exciting	10%	69%	22%
Experienced	16%	51%	33%
Honest	23%	42%	35%
Hypocritical	36%	38%	25%
Inspiring	23%	51%	26%
Intelligent	49%	37%	14%
Partisan	24%	64%	11%
Patriotic	23%	48%	29%
Religious	13%	60%	27%
Sincere	26%	45%	29%
Steady	22%	57%	20%
Strong	22%	46%	32%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	5%

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

More jobs	18%
The same amount of jobs	49%
Fewer jobs	21%
Not sure	13%

38. 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	10%
Military Household - I served previously	12%
Military Household - Family served previously	37%
Military Household - None	48%

39. Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%

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

Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	20%
Neither support, nor oppose	22%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	17%

41. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	24%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

42. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	16%

43. Race

White	69%
Black	13%
Hispanic	11%
Other	7%

44. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	23%
South	37%
West	24%

45. Party Identification

Democratic	35%
Independent	38%
Republican	27%

46. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	69%
No	29%
Don't know	2%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 13-15, 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 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.04.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.