

# YouGov / Prospect Survey Results

Sample Size: 1977 GB Adults  
Fieldwork: 29th - 30th January 2012

	Voting intention			2010 Vote			Gender		Age				Social Grade				Region						
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	AB	C1	C2	DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland	
<b>Weighted Sample</b>	<b>1977</b>				622	525	428	961	1016	239	504	676	558	554	573	415	435	253	643	423	486	172	
Unweighted Sample	1977	606	549	145	626	499	438	986	991	198	505	747	527	691	609	285	392	267	661	366	448	235	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

In general, do you agree or disagree with this statement "The government pays out too much in benefits; welfare levels overall should be reduced"?

Agree strongly	38	63	22	28	60	27	27	44	33	24	41	39	42	42	44	38	27	39	41	42	34	33
Tend to agree	36	31	37	46	32	37	43	33	38	37	32	39	35	37	35	38	32	29	38	31	38	40
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>74</b>
Tend to disagree	11	2	19	11	3	16	15	10	11	11	10	10	12	11	9	8	16	14	8	12	11	13
Disagree strongly	7	1	13	4	1	10	6	7	6	8	6	6	7	5	5	7	11	8	5	5	9	5
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>
Don't know	8	3	9	11	3	9	9	6	11	20	10	6	5	5	8	9	14	10	7	10	8	8

Some people talk about "scroungers" who lie about their circumstances in order to obtain higher welfare benefits (for example by pretending to be unemployed or ill or disabled) or deliberately refuse to take work when suitable jobs are available. How many welfare claimants, if any, would you say fit this description?

Very few, if any, are scroungers	3	1	4	3	1	3	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3
A small minority	25	14	35	38	14	34	35	26	23	32	21	27	22	25	23	25	26	25	27	23	23	26
A significant minority	39	46	36	40	46	36	37	40	39	38	36	39	43	44	42	34	36	36	40	38	40	42
Around half of all welfare claimants	22	29	16	15	27	17	16	21	22	11	22	21	26	19	21	25	23	24	20	22	23	20
Most welfare claimants	7	9	3	2	9	4	5	7	7	4	12	6	5	5	8	9	6	7	7	9	5	6
Don't know	5	1	6	2	3	6	3	4	6	13	6	4	2	4	5	5	7	7	4	5	7	4

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Total	Household income per year							Children		Education					Household income 40k+ and have children	Household income 50k+ and have children
	under 10,000	10,000-19,999	20,000-29,999	30,000-39,999	40,000-49,999	50,000-69,999	70,000 and over	No	Yes	No qualifications	GCSE	A level	Degree	Other qualification		
<b>Weighted Sample 1977</b>	156	283	311	236	182	160	104	1413	527	137	312	347	453	666	165	102
Unweighted Sample 1977	142	269	292	250	180	177	126	1418	525	118	278	344	526	657	183	118
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

In general, do you agree or disagree with this statement "The government pays out too much in benefits; welfare levels overall should be reduced"?

Agree strongly	38	19	42	34	44	47	45	45	39	38	32	42	39	35	40	43	40
Tend to agree	36	32	32	39	36	37	37	35	36	35	25	33	38	38	37	42	43
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>
Tend to disagree	11	15	13	15	10	8	6	10	11	10	21	8	10	12	10	6	7
Disagree strongly	7	20	8	4	3	2	6	3	7	6	12	5	4	9	6	4	4
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Don't know	8	14	6	8	6	5	6	7	7	12	10	12	9	6	7	5	6

Some people talk about "scroungers" who lie about their circumstances in order to obtain higher welfare benefits (for example by pretending to be unemployed or ill or disabled) or deliberately refuse to take work when suitable jobs are available. How many welfare claimants, if any, would you say fit this description?

Very few, if any, are scroungers	3	2	3	4	1	2	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	5	2	1	1
A small minority	25	34	20	29	23	24	27	23	25	25	26	18	25	33	22	25	26
A significant minority	39	37	40	38	40	41	35	52	41	36	34	40	41	39	40	40	41
Around half of all welfare claimants	22	20	26	17	22	25	24	13	22	20	27	24	21	15	25	22	17
Most welfare claimants	7	3	7	9	9	8	7	5	6	9	6	9	6	5	7	8	9
Don't know	5	4	3	4	5	1	3	5	4	8	6	7	6	4	5	4	5

Fieldwork: 29th - 30th January 2012

	Voting intention			2010 Vote			Gender		Age				Social Grade				Region					
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	AB	C1	C2	DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
<b>Weighted Sample</b>	<b>1977</b>				622	525	428	961	1016	239	504	676	558	554	573	415	435	253	643	423	486	172
<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	<b>1977</b>	606	549	145	626	499	438	986	991	198	505	747	527	691	609	285	392	267	661	366	448	235
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Which of these statements comes closer to your view?**

'Britain's current welfare system has created a culture of dependency, whereby many people, and often whole families, get used to living off state benefits; the system needs to be radically changed to get such people to take more responsibility for their lives and their families'	<b>69</b>	91	54	66	88	56	65	71	68	55	71	71	72	70	74	74	59	65	74	69	66	68
'Most people who rely on welfare benefits are victims of circumstances beyond their control. The benefits they receive are far from generous, and are the least a civilised society should provide in order to help them and their families avoid abject poverty'	<b>22</b>	6	37	29	7	34	30	23	22	28	19	21	24	23	17	19	29	23	19	22	26	23
Don't know	<b>8</b>	2	9	5	5	10	5	7	10	18	10	7	4	6	8	7	12	12	7	9	7	9

**Currently, part of our taxes are used to support the following groups. Thinking about taxpayers in general, and people who receive welfare benefits honestly and legitimately, would you prefer income tax rates and the level of and support for each group to rise, or income tax rates and support to fall, or is the balance about right?**

**Parents paying standard-rate tax (via child benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>9</b>	5	12	10	6	10	9	10	7	12	8	7	10	8	9	6	12	10	8	7	8	13
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>21</b>	30	14	27	29	16	20	22	20	13	21	24	21	24	22	18	18	27	22	16	22	17
The current balance is about right	<b>50</b>	53	53	52	50	52	57	53	47	36	45	54	55	54	51	52	42	46	52	53	47	49
Don't know	<b>20</b>	13	20	11	15	22	14	15	26	39	26	15	14	14	18	24	28	17	18	23	23	21

**Older people (via the state pension and winter fuel allowance)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>35</b>	33	35	42	33	32	39	36	34	30	31	32	44	35	36	31	37	36	37	33	35	30
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>9</b>	9	10	10	9	10	9	10	9	8	10	9	9	9	10	9	9	14	8	8	9	10
The current balance is about right	<b>39</b>	49	37	42	46	39	41	42	37	29	37	45	40	44	39	40	34	33	41	41	38	44
Don't know	<b>17</b>	9	17	6	12	19	11	12	21	34	22	14	8	12	16	20	21	17	15	18	17	17

Fieldwork: 29th - 30th January 2012

	Household income per year							Children		Education					Household income 40k+ and have children	Household income 50k+ and have children	
	Total	under 10,000	10,000-19,999	20,000-29,999	30,000-39,999	40,000-49,999	50,000-69,999	70,000 and over	No	Yes	No qualifications	GCSE	A level	Degree			Other qualification
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<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	<b>1977</b>	142	269	292	250	180	177	126	1418	525	118	278	344	526	657	183	118
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Which of these statements comes closer to your view?**

'Britain's current welfare system has created a culture of dependency, whereby many people, and often whole families, get used to living off state benefits; the system needs to be radically changed to get such people to take more responsibility for their lives and their families'	<b>69</b>	42	73	70	75	81	76	76	71	67	61	75	72	66	72	74	74
'Most people who rely on welfare benefits are victims of circumstances beyond their control. The benefits they receive are far from generous, and are the least a civilised society should provide in order to help them and their families avoid abject poverty'	<b>22</b>	48	23	23	17	14	19	19	23	21	29	17	19	26	22	17	18
Don't know	<b>8</b>	10	5	7	8	4	5	5	7	11	10	8	10	8	7	8	8

**Currently, part of our taxes are used to support the following groups. Thinking about taxpayers in general, and people who receive welfare benefits honestly and legitimately, would you prefer income tax rates and the level of and support for each group to rise, or income tax rates and support to fall, or is the balance about right?**

**Parents paying standard-rate tax (via child benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>9</b>	12	10	8	6	5	9	9	8	10	16	7	9	8	8	8	10
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>21</b>	13	23	24	25	18	17	27	23	15	23	18	20	22	22	12	13
The current balance is about right	<b>50</b>	50	50	51	51	65	61	52	50	53	44	44	47	54	54	69	63
Don't know	<b>20</b>	25	17	17	18	12	13	12	19	22	17	31	24	16	16	11	14

**Older people (via the state pension and winter fuel allowance)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>35</b>	36	44	29	33	36	27	32	37	29	44	32	34	33	34	26	23
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>9</b>	9	11	9	10	5	9	11	9	11	10	8	9	10	9	9	9
The current balance is about right	<b>39</b>	38	34	47	43	50	51	46	40	40	32	35	36	43	44	54	53
Don't know	<b>17</b>	18	11	15	14	9	13	11	14	21	14	25	21	14	13	11	15

Fieldwork: 29th - 30th January 2012

	Voting intention			2010 Vote			Gender		Age				Social Grade				Region					
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	AB	C1	C2	DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland	
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<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	1977	606	549	145	626	499	438	986	991	198	505	747	527	691	609	285	392	267	661	366	448	235
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Unemployed people (via job-seekers allowance and housing benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	7	3	10	7	3	6	9	8	6	10	7	5	7	6	7	5	9	8	6	6	8	6
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	42	51	36	38	50	37	38	42	41	31	47	43	40	45	44	47	30	39	43	41	43	37
The current balance is about right	32	32	35	45	30	35	40	35	29	27	24	36	38	35	33	26	34	34	32	31	30	37
Don't know	20	14	20	10	16	22	13	15	24	32	23	16	16	14	17	23	28	19	19	22	19	20

**Low-paid people (via income support, tax credits and housing benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	18	14	22	22	13	21	22	20	16	21	16	16	20	18	19	13	20	22	17	16	19	14
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	23	30	22	24	30	22	18	25	21	15	25	23	23	26	24	24	18	25	23	23	23	23
The current balance is about right	39	43	37	43	41	37	46	40	38	27	35	44	42	42	39	40	35	33	41	38	39	42
Don't know	20	13	19	12	16	20	14	15	25	37	23	16	15	15	18	23	27	19	19	22	19	22

**Single parents who have never married (via income support and housing benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	6	4	9	6	5	7	7	8	5	10	7	5	6	7	6	5	7	8	6	4	8	6
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	44	59	33	40	57	37	40	45	42	22	37	49	52	48	43	46	36	41	48	42	43	38
The current balance is about right	29	24	35	38	23	32	36	32	26	32	30	29	25	28	31	26	28	29	28	30	27	31
Don't know	21	13	23	16	16	24	17	16	27	36	25	17	17	16	20	23	28	22	19	24	22	25

**Disabled people who have extra costs (via Disability Living Allowance)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	29	25	35	31	25	31	31	32	26	22	26	28	35	27	31	26	31	30	30	26	29	27
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	11	12	13	5	11	13	11	12	11	7	12	13	11	11	9	13	13	14	11	10	11	12
The current balance is about right	40	51	34	53	49	36	44	41	39	34	36	44	42	47	42	40	29	35	41	40	39	44
Don't know	20	13	18	11	16	20	13	15	25	37	27	16	12	15	19	22	27	20	18	24	20	17

Fieldwork: 29th - 30th January 2012

	Household income per year							Children		Education					Household income 40k+ and have children	Household income 50k+ and have children	
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		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Unemployed people (via job-seekers allowance and housing benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>7</b>	13	8	6	4	4	6	8	7	5	7	6	4	7	7	4	3
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>42</b>	26	40	40	48	47	50	51	41	43	37	40	47	41	41	50	48
The current balance is about right	<b>32</b>	36	34	39	31	39	31	30	34	29	31	25	30	36	34	34	34
Don't know	<b>20</b>	24	18	16	16	10	12	11	18	22	25	29	19	16	17	12	14

**Low-paid people (via income support, tax credits and housing benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>18</b>	24	20	17	14	17	16	17	18	16	23	12	19	19	17	14	14
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>23</b>	12	27	21	28	28	31	23	24	23	20	21	24	21	27	27	27
The current balance is about right	<b>39</b>	39	39	43	41	42	40	50	40	39	36	38	35	44	39	45	46
Don't know	<b>20</b>	25	14	18	17	13	13	10	18	23	21	29	22	16	17	14	13

**Single parents who have never married (via income support and housing benefit)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>6</b>	10	5	6	4	7	6	7	6	7	8	5	6	9	4	6	6
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>44</b>	35	48	43	51	47	48	48	47	37	50	44	36	39	50	42	40
The current balance is about right	<b>29</b>	29	30	35	26	33	30	31	28	31	20	22	34	35	27	36	37
Don't know	<b>21</b>	26	18	16	19	14	16	13	19	25	22	29	23	17	19	16	18

**Disabled people who have extra costs (via Disability Living Allowance)**

Income tax rates should rise, to pay for greater support	<b>29</b>	34	30	29	33	27	30	24	30	26	31	28	27	27	30	26	27
Income tax rates should fall, to pay for less support	<b>11</b>	13	13	11	10	14	10	15	11	12	14	8	13	10	12	15	11
The current balance is about right	<b>40</b>	30	41	44	39	47	47	48	42	37	37	34	39	46	41	44	45
Don't know	<b>20</b>	22	15	16	18	11	13	13	17	25	19	30	21	17	16	14	17

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		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Child benefit will shortly be withdrawn from families where one or both parents pays higher rate tax (normally because they earn more than £44,000 a year). Do you support or oppose withdrawing child benefit from higher-rate taxpayers?**

Support withdrawing child benefit from higher-rate taxpayers	<b>70</b>	77	64	79	74	64	76	76	65	60	65	72	78	68	72	72	71	65	70	70	72	74
Oppose withdrawing child benefit from this group	<b>21</b>	19	28	18	20	28	17	19	23	17	26	21	18	26	21	18	17	23	22	21	20	17
Don't know	<b>9</b>	5	7	3	6	8	7	6	12	23	9	7	5	7	7	10	12	12	8	9	8	9

**Thinking about better-off pensioners who pay higher-rate tax, which of these views comes closer to your own?**

“Given today’s economic problems, the Government can’t afford to help everybody; it should stop paying the state pension and winter fuel allowance to pensioners paying higher-rate tax, and use the money instead to provide more help to people who need the money more”	<b>43</b>	45	42	47	44	38	50	45	41	40	43	47	38	38	46	43	44	37	46	44	44	34
“Pensioners have spent their working lives paying for their state retirement benefits through the national insurance system. It would be wrong to withdraw their state pension and winter fuel allowance, however well-off they are”	<b>48</b>	51	50	43	50	53	42	48	48	32	46	45	59	54	44	48	44	52	46	49	45	55
Don't know	<b>10</b>	4	8	9	5	9	8	8	11	28	10	7	4	7	10	9	11	11	9	8	11	11

Fieldwork: 29th - 30th January 2012

Total	Household income per year							Children		Education					Household income 40k+ and have children	Household income 50k+ and have children
	under 10,000	10,000-19,999	20,000-29,999	30,000-39,999	40,000-49,999	50,000-69,999	70,000 and over	No	Yes	No qualifications	GCSE	A level	Degree	Other qualification		
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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Child benefit will shortly be withdrawn from families where one or both parents pays higher rate tax (normally because they earn more than £44,000 a year). Do you support or oppose withdrawing child benefit from higher-rate taxpayers?**

Support withdrawing child benefit from higher-rate taxpayers	<b>70</b>	78	82	76	72	70	57	66	76	57	71	71	71	65	73	44	41
Oppose withdrawing child benefit from this group	<b>21</b>	15	14	14	20	27	38	31	17	32	24	16	17	29	20	52	55
Don't know	<b>9</b>	7	4	10	8	3	5	4	7	10	5	13	12	6	7	4	4

**Thinking about better-off pensioners who pay higher-rate tax, which of these views comes closer to your own?**

“Given today’s economic problems, the Government can’t afford to help everybody; it should stop paying the state pension and winter fuel allowance to pensioners paying higher-rate tax, and use the money instead to provide more help to people who need the money more”	<b>43</b>	48	44	42	45	49	45	46	42	45	36	42	42	44	45	48	44
“Pensioners have spent their working lives paying for their state retirement benefits through the national insurance system. It would be wrong to withdraw their state pension and winter fuel allowance, however well-off they are”	<b>48</b>	44	51	51	48	44	49	48	50	42	55	44	45	50	48	42	47
Don't know	<b>10</b>	8	5	7	7	7	6	6	7	13	10	15	13	6	7	10	9