

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted October 19-21, 2013  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.4\%$

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	49%
Some of the time	29%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	22%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	13%

3. How closely did you follow news of the recent government shutdown?

Very closely	42%
Somewhat closely	35%
Not very closely	17%
Not at all	5%

**4. Who do you think is to blame for the shutdown of the federal government?**

Democrats in Congress only	2%
Republicans in Congress only	23%
President Obama only	6%
Tea Party Republicans	12%
President Obama and the Democrats in Congress both	13%
President Obama and the Republicans in Congress both	4%
Both the Democrats and Republicans in Congress	5%
All three (President Obama, Democrats and Republicans in Congress)	29%
Other	1%
None of the above	4%

**5. Considering everything, do you think the partial shutdown of the federal government was a good thing or a bad thing?**

Good thing	21%
Bad thing	64%
Not sure	16%

**6. Would you say it was a crisis or not?**  
*Asked of those who thought the shutdown was a bad thing*

Crisis	72%
Not a crisis	28%

**7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The federal government shutdown has shown that many of the services the federal government provides are not essential and should be eliminated.**

Strongly agree	22%
Somewhat agree	23%
Somewhat disagree	15%
Strongly disagree	28%
Not sure	12%

8. Please indicate if you know personally... (Check all that apply)

	Yes, and that person is me	Yes, I know someone like this	No, don't know anyone like this
Someone who is a federal employee who was on furlough	2%	23%	74%
Someone who is a federal employee who was <u>NOT</u> on furlough	2%	18%	78%
Someone who needed to visit a federal office that was shutdown	4%	15%	79%
Someone who was going to visit a national park or monument	5%	20%	74%
Someone who was unable to use a federal government service	9%	26%	63%
Someone who needed to collect data from a federal government website that was temporarily offline	10%	16%	74%
Someone who needed to apply for a federal home loan guarantee like VA or FHA	2%	10%	87%
Someone who was unable to apply for a visa or a passport due to the shutdown	2%	8%	89%
Someone who was not a federal employee but whose business has been affected by the shutdown	3%	19%	77%

9. Which one of the people listed below is the most responsible for starting the government shutdown?

Barack Obama .....	34%
John Boehner .....	19%
Nancy Pelosi .....	1%
Mitch McConnell .....	1%
Harry Reid .....	5%
Ted Cruz .....	15%
Mike Lee .....	0%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	23%

10. Which one of the people listed below is the most responsible for ending the government shutdown?

Barack Obama .....	19%
John Boehner .....	17%
Nancy Pelosi .....	1%
Mitch McConnell .....	8%
Harry Reid .....	12%
Ted Cruz .....	2%
Mike Lee .....	0%
Other .....	3%
Not sure .....	38%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the deal which ended the government shutdown and lifted the debt ceiling?

Strongly approve .....	7%
Somewhat approve .....	21%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	17%
Somewhat disapprove .....	17%
Strongly disapprove .....	21%
Not sure .....	16%

12. How much trust do you have in each of the following to make the right decisions about the federal budget?

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	Not sure
President Obama	16%	16%	15%	11%	37%	4%
Republicans in Congress	6%	11%	18%	22%	36%	7%
Democrats in Congress	10%	15%	20%	15%	33%	6%

13. If you had to choose, which approach would you prefer that members of Congress take when negotiating a federal budget agreement?

- Lawmakers should compromise to reach a budget agreement, even if it means sacrificing some priorities that they believe in .....74%
- Lawmakers should fight for the priorities that they believe in, even if it means risking a government shutdown .....26%

14. If you had to choose, which approach would you prefer that President Obama take when negotiating a federal budget agreement?

- President Obama should compromise to reach a budget agreement, even if it means sacrificing some priorities that he believes in .....71%
- President Obama should fight for the priorities that he believes in, even if it means risking a government shutdown .....29%

15. How likely is it that there will be another government shutdown in January when the current deal expires?

- Extremely likely .....28%
- Somewhat likely .....45%
- Not very likely .....11%
- Not likely at all .....2%
- Not sure .....15%

16. In the future, do you think government shutdowns will be normal politics or do you think shutdowns will be unusual?

Government shutdown will become normal politics .....	48%
Government shutdown will be unusual .....	23%
Not sure .....	29%

17. Do you have a favorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
House Democrats	13%	25%	17%	36%	9%
House Republicans	7%	20%	20%	44%	9%
Senate Democrats	14%	25%	14%	37%	9%
Senate Republicans	6%	18%	30%	38%	8%

18. What is your view of the Tea Party movement – would you say it is very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative, or don't you know enough about the Tea Party movement to say?

Very positive .....	15%
Somewhat positive .....	13%
Neutral .....	8%
Somewhat negative .....	6%
Very negative .....	36%
Don't know enough to say .....	15%
No opinion .....	6%

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

Yes .....	11%
No .....	74%
Not Sure .....	15%

**20. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Major League Baseball?**

Very favorable .....	18%
Somewhat favorable .....	39%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	14%
Very unfavorable .....	7%
Not sure .....	22%

**21. How closely are you following the Major League Baseball playoffs this fall?**

Very closely .....	11%
Somewhat closely .....	18%
Not very closely .....	24%
Not closely at all .....	47%

**22. Who do you want to win the World Series?**

Boston Red Sox .....	20%
St Louis Cardinals .....	18%
No preference .....	62%

23. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	18%	2%	2%
Immigration	39%	35%	17%	9%
The environment	40%	36%	15%	9%
Terrorism	48%	34%	11%	6%
Gay rights	21%	22%	21%	36%
Education	57%	30%	8%	5%
Health care	63%	25%	7%	5%
Social security	61%	28%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	56%	27%	12%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	36%	23%	12%
Taxes	56%	33%	8%	4%
Medicare	53%	30%	12%	5%
Abortion	31%	32%	20%	17%

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

The economy	29%
Immigration	3%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	10%
Health care	12%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	4%



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

The economy .....	29%
Immigration .....	9%
The environment .....	0%
Terrorism .....	16%
Gay rights .....	0%
Education .....	18%
Health care .....	13%
Social security .....	8%
The budget deficit .....	3%
The war in Afghanistan .....	0%
Taxes .....	0%
Medicare .....	0%
Abortion .....	4%

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	29%	17%	8%	39%	7%
John Boehner	6%	18%	18%	40%	18%
Mitch McConnell	4%	13%	22%	32%	28%
Harry Reid	9%	19%	12%	37%	23%
Nancy Pelosi	12%	21%	10%	39%	18%
Joe Biden	21%	23%	11%	33%	12%
Hillary Clinton	30%	22%	11%	29%	8%

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

Strongly approve .....	19%
Somewhat approve .....	23%
Somewhat disapprove .....	13%
Strongly disapprove .....	40%
Not sure .....	5%

28. 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	16%	26%	11%	40%	8%
Immigration	15%	23%	15%	33%	14%
The environment	15%	26%	15%	26%	18%
Terrorism	21%	24%	15%	26%	14%
Gay rights	19%	21%	8%	30%	22%
Education	16%	28%	15%	25%	15%
Health care	23%	19%	8%	42%	8%
Social security	15%	25%	13%	30%	16%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	27%	16%	27%	14%
The budget deficit	15%	23%	11%	42%	9%
Taxes	14%	24%	14%	36%	12%
Medicare	17%	24%	13%	30%	16%
Abortion	14%	22%	9%	29%	25%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	48%
Not sure	8%

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

Very liberal .....	5%
Liberal .....	19%
Moderate .....	32%
Conservative .....	27%
Very conservative .....	10%
Not sure .....	7%

**31. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal .....	40%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	24%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	9%

**32. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	47%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Like a lot .....	33%
Like somewhat .....	25%
Dislike .....	31%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Getting better .....	17%
About the same .....	37%
Getting worse .....	39%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	19%
About the same .....	38%
Lower .....	20%
Not sure .....	24%

**36. 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 .....	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	34%
Not sure .....	4%

**37. Is the place where you live owned or rented?**

Owned by you or your family .....	61%
Rented from someone else .....	37%
Other .....	1%

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

Increased .....	18%
Stayed about the same .....	46%
Decreased .....	24%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Increased .....	33%
Stayed about the same .....	39%
Decreased .....	6%
Not sure .....	22%

**40. Thinking ahead, do you think home prices in your area will increase or decrease in the next year?**

Will increase a lot .....	3%
Will increase a little .....	31%
Will stay about the same .....	32%
Will decrease a little .....	10%
Will decrease a lot .....	4%
Not sure .....	20%

**41. How worried are you about making your mortgage payments?**

Very worried .....	10%
Somewhat worried .....	24%
Not worried .....	32%
Don't have mortgage payments .....	34%

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

Will definitely buy a home .....	2%
Am considering buying a home .....	11%
Not looking for a home now .....	87%

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

Yes .....	29%
No .....	71%

**44. Are you registered to vote?**

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

**45. Are you currently enrolled as a student?**

Full-time student .....	8%
Part-time student .....	1%
Not a student .....	92%

**46. Do you have a job outside of school?**

Full-time job .....	18%
Part-time job .....	22%
No job outside of school .....	59%

**47. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

Full-time employed .....	38%
Part-time employed .....	14%
Self-employed .....	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff .....	13%
Retired .....	17%
Permanently disabled .....	7%
Homemaker .....	9%
Other .....	2%

**48. Do you currently have more than one job?**

Yes .....	17%
No .....	83%

**49. In a typical week, about how many hours do you work for pay?**

Mean ..... 18

**50. How worried are you about losing your job?**

Very worried ..... 12%  
Somewhat worried ..... 31%  
Not very worried ..... 57%

**51. 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. .... 39%  
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.  
..... 33%  
Not very hard ..... 16%  
Not sure ..... 12%

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

More jobs ..... 15%  
The same amount of jobs ..... 42%  
Fewer jobs ..... 30%  
Not sure ..... 12%

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

Very happy ..... 21%  
Happy ..... 32%  
Neither happy nor unhappy ..... 30%  
Unhappy ..... 10%  
Very unhappy ..... 8%

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

Higher .....	17%
Same .....	65%
Lower .....	18%

**55. 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 .....	22%
I could last a few months on my savings .....	24%
I could last a year on my savings .....	8%
I could last more than a year on my savings .....	11%

**56. Gender**

Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%

**57. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?**

Democrat .....	37%
Republican .....	21%
Independent .....	35%
Other .....	3%
Not sure .....	5%



**58. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?**

White .....	67%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	12%
Asian .....	2%
Native American .....	1%
Middle Eastern .....	1%
Mixed .....	2%
Other .....	1%

**59. Education**

No high school .....	12%
High school graduate .....	30%
Some college .....	25%
2-year college .....	9%
4-year college .....	15%
Post-graduate .....	8%

**60. What is your marital status?**

Married .....	45%
Separated .....	1%
Divorced .....	10%
Widowed .....	4%
Single .....	34%
Domestic partnership .....	6%

**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 .....	8%
Once a week .....	16%
Once or twice a month .....	8%
A few times a year .....	13%
Seldom .....	23%
Never .....	29%
Don't know .....	4%

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

Several times a day .....	31%
Once a day .....	12%
A few times a week .....	11%
Once a week .....	2%
A few times a month .....	6%
Seldom .....	13%
Never .....	19%
Don't know .....	5%

**65. What is your present religion, if any?**

Protestant .....	35%
Roman Catholic .....	20%
Mormon .....	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox .....	0%
Jewish .....	3%
Muslim .....	0%
Buddhist .....	1%
Hindu .....	1%
Atheist .....	5%
Agnostic .....	6%
Nothing in particular .....	23%
Something else .....	4%

**66. Age**

18-29 .....	26%
30-44 .....	28%
45-64 .....	31%
65+ .....	14%

**67. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?**

Democrat .....	35%
Republican .....	23%
Independent .....	31%
Other .....	3%
Not sure .....	8%

**68. Race**

White .....	67%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	12%
Other .....	7%

69. Region

Northeast .....	18%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	37%
West .....	22%

70. Party Identification

Democrat .....	37%
Lean Democrat .....	11%
Independent .....	21%
Lean Republican .....	11%
Republican .....	21%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	October 19-21, 2013
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 0.2 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.98.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	21 questions not reported.