

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 7-9, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.5\%$

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	52%
Some of the time	29%
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	60%
Not sure	13%

3. If the election were being held today, would you vote to re-elect the member of Congress who represents your district?

Yes	24%
No	47%
Not sure	30%

4. In your opinion, which one of the following people was the BEST Speaker of the House since 1980?

Tip O’Neill, D-Massachusetts, 1977-1986	18%
Jim Wright, D-Texas, 1987-1989	1%
Tom Foley, D-Washington, 1989-1994	2%
Newt Gingrich, R-Georgia, 1995-1998	23%
Dennis Hastert, R-Illinois, 1999-2006	3%
Nancy Pelosi, D-California, 2006-2010	13%
John Boehner, R-Ohio, 2010-present	6%
Not sure	34%

5. In your opinion, which one of the following people was the WORST Speaker of the House since 1980?

Tip O’Neill, D-Massachusetts, 1977-1986	1%
Jim Wright, D-Texas, 1987-1989	0%
Tom Foley, D-Washington, 1989-1994	0%
Newt Gingrich, R-Georgia, 1995-1998	11%
Dennis Hastert, R-Illinois, 1999-2006	1%
Nancy Pelosi, D-California, 2006-2010	39%
John Boehner, R-Ohio, 2010-present	27%
Not sure	20%

6. How likely is it that Congress will pass a federal budget...?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Not sure
This year	5%	19%	26%	39%	10%
Next year	6%	30%	23%	32%	9%

7. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does at this point in its two-year term?

More than usual	3%
About the same	18%
Less than usual	69%
Not sure	9%

8. Who is more to blame for Congress accomplishing less than it usually does in a year?

Asked if respondent says Congress accomplished less than usual

Republicans in Congress	41%
Democrats in Congress	24%
Both equally	33%
Neither	1%
Not sure	1%

9. Do you think the government in Washington is broken?

Yes	80%
No	11%
Not sure	9%

10. Can President Obama fix what is broken in Washington?

Yes	7%
No	66%
Washington isn't broken	11%
Not sure	16%

11. Can the next President fix what is broken in Washington?

Yes	14%
No	28%
Washington isn't broken	11%
Not sure	47%

12. Can this Congress fix what is broken in Washington?

Yes	13%
No	59%
Washington isn't broken	11%
Not sure	17%

13. Can the next Congress fix what is broken in Washington?

Yes	24%
No	19%
Washington isn't broken	11%
Not sure	46%

14. Who is the most to blame for Congress not passing a budget this year?

Republicans in the House of Representatives	29%
Democrats in the House of Representatives	4%
Republicans in the Senate	11%
Democrats in the Senate	18%
President Obama	23%
Not sure	16%

15. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

Very concerned	49%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not very concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	5%

16. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately	41%
Next year	10%
In a few years	25%
Not necessary to balance the budget	11%
Not sure	14%

17. Would you support or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution that requires Congress to balance its budget every year and requires a three-fifths majority of both the House and Senate to raise the federal debt limit?

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	23%
Neither support, nor oppose	14%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	9%
Not sure	15%

18. Which party do you trust more to handle the problem of the federal budget deficit?

Democrats	34%
Republicans	40%
About the same	26%

19. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current size of the federal budget deficit?

Most	36%
Some	24%
Only a little	24%
None	10%
Not sure	6%

20. Overall, do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease the amount it spends?

Increase	10%
Keep the same	16%
Decrease	63%
Not sure	11%

21. Do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease taxes?

Increase	20%
Keep the same	32%
Decrease	38%
Not sure	11%

22. Please give us your best guess to the following question. How has the unemployment rate in the country changed from January 2009, when President Obama first took office, to November 2013?

Unemployment rate <u>decreased</u> by 1% or more	27%
Unemployment rate <u>decreased</u> by between 0% and 1%	13%
Unemployment rate is the same	10%
Unemployment rate <u>increased</u> by between 0% and 1%	7%
Unemployment rate <u>increased</u> by 1% or more	28%
Don't know	15%

23. Do you think President Barack Obama is doing enough to create new jobs for Americans or should he do more?

Doing enough	26%
Should do more	60%
Not sure	14%

24. Do you think Republicans in Congress are doing enough to create new jobs for Americans or should they do more?

Doing enough	13%
Should do more	68%
Not sure	19%

25. Do you think Democrats in Congress are doing enough to create new jobs for Americans or should they do more?

Doing enough	18%
Should do more	65%
Not sure	16%

26. Should the federal government encourage employment through various incentives, laws and regulations or should the federal government not be directly involved?

Federal government should encourage employment	45%
Federal government should not be directly involved	37%
Not sure	18%

27. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole unemployment rates during THE NEXT YEAR will increase, decrease or remain about the same?

Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot lower</u> than they are today	3%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat lower</u> than they are today	26%
Unemployment rates will be <u>about the same</u> as they are today	26%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat higher</u> than they are today	16%
Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot higher</u> than they are today	12%
Not sure	15%

28. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole unemployment rates during THE NEXT FIVE YEARS will increase, decrease or remain about the same?

Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot lower</u> than they are today	7%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat lower</u> than they are today	28%
Unemployment rates will be <u>about the same</u> as they are today	18%
Unemployment rates will be <u>somewhat higher</u> than they are today	15%
Unemployment rates will be <u>a lot higher</u> than they are today	13%
Not sure	19%

29. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous good times during the next year or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression, or what?

Good times	2%
Mostly good times	13%
Mixture	48%
Mostly bad times	15%
Bad times	12%
Not sure	9%

30. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous good times during THE NEXT FIVE YEARS or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression, or what?

Good times	2%
Mostly good times	12%
Mixture	52%
Mostly bad times	13%
Bad times	10%
Not sure	11%

31. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous good times during THE NEXT TEN YEARS or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression, or what?

Good times	2%
Mostly good times	15%
Mixture	48%
Mostly bad times	9%
Bad times	9%
Not sure	17%

32. 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	36%
More of a failure than a success	16%
Equal amount of both failure and success	16%
More of a success than a failure	17%
A complete success	1%
Too early to tell	8%
Not sure	7%

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

We will never really know	11%
We will know after the law has been in effect for several years	25%
We will know after the law has been in effect for one year	21%
We will know in a few months when we find out how many people have enrolled	13%
We know now even before the law has been put into effect	30%

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

Yes	26%
No	68%
Not sure	6%

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

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

Very positive	9%
Somewhat positive	14%
Neither positive nor negative	17%
Somewhat negative	16%
Very negative	43%
Not sure	2%

36. Which month did you visit healthcare.gov?

October	32%
November	48%
December	16%
Don't remember	4%

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

Expanded	22%
Kept the same	13%
Repealed	48%
Not sure	17%

38. Do you have health insurance?

Yes	78%
No	22%

39. Which of the following people do you consider to be great or near great?

	Great	Near great	Not great	Don't know
Mother Teresa	59%	24%	8%	9%
Martin Luther King Jr.	51%	33%	9%	7%
John F. Kennedy	37%	38%	17%	8%
Albert Einstein	67%	23%	3%	7%
Helen Keller	39%	38%	9%	14%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt	36%	30%	20%	14%
Billy Graham	28%	23%	32%	17%
Pope John Paul II	28%	30%	25%	16%
Eleanor Roosevelt	30%	34%	18%	18%
Winston Churchill	43%	35%	8%	14%
Dwight D. Eisenhower	29%	40%	13%	18%
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis	18%	34%	30%	18%
Mahatma Gandhi	47%	27%	10%	16%
Nelson Mandela	48%	27%	14%	11%
Ronald Reagan	35%	26%	28%	10%
Henry Ford	23%	45%	15%	18%
Bill Clinton	16%	30%	46%	8%
Margaret Thatcher	25%	34%	22%	18%
Barack Obama	15%	21%	56%	8%
Mikhail Gorbachev	5%	25%	49%	21%
Thomas Edison	50%	35%	7%	9%
Bill Gates	32%	40%	17%	11%
Steve Jobs	29%	39%	18%	14%
Oskar Schindler	27%	21%	13%	39%
Dalai Lama	29%	32%	15%	24%
Aung San Suu Kyi	8%	13%	16%	63%
Che Guevara	4%	12%	38%	46%

40. Which of the following people do you consider to be the greatest?

Mother Teresa	12%
Martin Luther King Jr.	12%
John F. Kennedy	5%
Albert Einstein	10%
Helen Keller	1%
Franklin Delano Roosevelt	7%
Billy Graham	8%
Pope John Paul II	4%
Eleanor Roosevelt	1%
Winston Churchill	4%
Dwight D. Eisenhower	2%
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis	0%
Mahatma Gandhi	6%
Nelson Mandela	7%
Ronald Reagan	10%
Henry Ford	0%
Bill Clinton	1%
Margaret Thatcher	0%
Barack Obama	2%
Mikhail Gorbachev	0%
Thomas Edison	4%
Bill Gates	0%
Steve Jobs	0%
Oskar Schindler	3%
Dalai Lama	1%
Aung San Suu Kyi	0%
Che Guevara	0%

41. Were the following groups justified in using violence against the established governments?

	Justified	Not justified	Don't know
American colonists against the British monarchy when fighting for independence from Britain	77%	5%	18%
French resistance against the German occupation during World War II	77%	5%	18%
African National Congress against the government of South Africa in the days of apartheid	47%	16%	37%
Libyan rebels against Muammar el-Qaddafi during the Arab Spring	49%	12%	39%
Syrian rebels against Bashar al-Assad today	40%	15%	45%
Irish Republican Army against the British government during the Troubles	30%	26%	44%
Jewish Resistance Movement against the British Mandate of Palestine before the establishment of Israel	38%	15%	47%
Palestine Liberation Organization against the government of Israel today	15%	49%	36%

42. Should President Obama personally attend Nelson Mandela’s funeral or should he send a representative instead?

Personally attend the funeral	54%
Send a representative instead	22%
No one should attend	7%
Not sure	16%

43. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	77%	17%	5%	1%
Immigration	42%	35%	18%	6%
The environment	37%	35%	20%	8%
Terrorism	47%	34%	15%	4%
Gay rights	23%	22%	26%	29%
Education	58%	30%	10%	3%
Health care	62%	27%	9%	2%
Social security	53%	36%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	53%	31%	11%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	25%	39%	29%	7%
Taxes	56%	34%	9%	1%
Medicare	48%	36%	14%	3%
Abortion	35%	29%	25%	12%

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

The economy	32%
Immigration	3%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	11%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	13%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	5%

45. 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	24%	17%	10%	44%	5%
Joe Biden	17%	23%	15%	35%	10%
John Boehner	4%	18%	25%	37%	16%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	21%	32%	28%
Harry Reid	6%	19%	14%	39%	21%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	21%	12%	45%	12%
Hillary Clinton	24%	24%	10%	37%	5%
John Kerry	10%	29%	16%	32%	13%
Benjamin Netanyahu	15%	22%	15%	13%	35%

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

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	3%

47. 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%	24%	12%	43%	8%
Immigration	13%	22%	15%	38%	12%
The environment	12%	26%	15%	32%	15%
Terrorism	18%	26%	17%	29%	10%
Gay rights	20%	22%	10%	31%	17%
Education	13%	25%	14%	34%	13%
Health care	20%	18%	11%	45%	6%
Social security	12%	25%	13%	35%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	24%	21%	30%	11%
The budget deficit	12%	23%	12%	44%	9%
Taxes	13%	24%	13%	40%	10%
Medicare	13%	22%	15%	36%	14%
Abortion	12%	21%	12%	34%	21%

48. 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	15%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	52%
Not sure	6%

49. 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	9%	26%	16%	42%	7%
Republicans in Congress	6%	22%	20%	46%	7%

50. 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	12%	27%	17%	38%	6%
The Republican Party	6%	21%	24%	43%	6%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	37%
The Republican Party candidate	31%
Other	8%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	4%

52. 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	37%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	5%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	5%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	30%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	5%

54. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	41%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	20%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	11%

55. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	36%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	30%
Like somewhat	22%
Dislike	38%
Not sure	9%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	47%	29%	24%
Bold	27%	54%	20%
Effective	18%	45%	37%
Exciting	13%	64%	23%
Experienced	18%	44%	38%
Honest	25%	35%	40%
Hypocritical	40%	37%	23%
Inspiring	29%	42%	29%
Intelligent	48%	34%	19%
Partisan	32%	51%	17%
Patriotic	26%	40%	34%
Religious	11%	57%	32%
Sincere	29%	36%	35%
Steady	23%	52%	24%
Strong	27%	46%	27%

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

Getting better	26%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	34%
Not sure	6%

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

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

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	49%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	30%
Not sure	5%

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

Owned by you or your family	67%
Rented from someone else	31%
Other	2%

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

Increased	25%
Stayed about the same	47%
Decreased	20%
Not sure	8%

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

Increased	32%
Stayed about the same	41%
Decreased	7%
Not sure	20%

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

Will increase a lot	5%
Will increase a little	32%
Will stay about the same	33%
Will decrease a little	9%
Will decrease a lot	5%
Not sure	16%

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

Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	20%
Not worried	33%
Don't have mortgage payments	38%

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

Will definitely buy a home	2%
Am considering buying a home	9%
Not looking for a home now	88%

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

Yes	24%
No	76%

68. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

Full-time student	6%
Part-time student	1%
Not a student	93%

69. Do you have a job outside of school?

Full-time job	96%
Part-time job	4%
No job outside of school	0%

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

Full-time employed	44%
Part-time employed	13%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	8%
Retired	17%
Permanently disabled	9%
Homemaker	8%
Other	1%

71. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	17%
No	83%

72. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	11%
Somewhat worried	31%
Not very worried	58%

73. 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.	35%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	41%
Not very hard	16%
Not sure	8%

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

More jobs	20%
The same amount of jobs	40%
Fewer jobs	28%
Not sure	12%

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

Very happy	21%
Happy	35%
Neither happy nor unhappy	30%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	6%

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

Higher	18%
Same	64%
Lower	18%

77. If you lost your job, how long would it be before you exhausted your savings?

I don't have any savings	34%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	20%
I could last a few months on my savings	27%
I could last a year on my savings	9%
I could last more than a year on my savings	10%

78. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

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

Democrat	36%
Republican	30%
Independent	27%
Other	4%
Not sure	4%

80. 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	18%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	11%

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

Yes	20%
No	70%
Not Sure	10%

82. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	68%
Black	14%
Hispanic	12%
Asian	2%
Native American	1%
Middle Eastern	0%
Mixed	2%
Other	2%

83. Education

No high school	5%
High school graduate	36%
Some college	23%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	18%
Post-graduate	9%

84. What is your marital status?

Married	49%
Separated	1%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	4%
Single	31%
Domestic partnership	4%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

86. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	36%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too important	12%
Not at all important	24%

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

More than once a week	9%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	15%
Seldom	18%
Never	29%
Don't know	2%

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

Several times a day	25%
Once a day	15%
A few times a week	14%
Once a week	5%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	12%
Never	20%
Don't know	3%

89. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	40%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	3%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	2%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	4%
Nothing in particular	21%
Something else	3%

90. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	32%
45-64	30%
65+	15%

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

Democrat	35%
Republican	29%
Independent	26%
Other	4%
Not sure	6%

92. Race

White	68%
Black	14%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%

93. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	21%
South	36%
West	25%

94. Party Identification

Democrat	36%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	15%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	30%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 7-9, 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 0.2 to 7.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.06.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.