

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 4-6, 2014
Margin of Error $\pm 3.9\%$

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	45%
Some of the time	31%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	14%

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

Yes	21%
No	45%
Not sure	33%

4. To the best of your knowledge, is your current member of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress a Democrat or a Republican?

Democrat	38%
Republican	36%
Not sure	26%

5. In 2014, do you think the Congress will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	5%
About the same	47%
Less than usual	36%
Not sure	11%

6. In 2014, do you think the Congress will accomplish more or less than what they accomplished in 2013?

More than 2013	15%
About the same as 2013	46%
Less than 2013	27%
Not sure	12%

7. How likely is it that Congress will...?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Not sure
Pass immigration reform	10%	31%	30%	20%	10%
Raise the federal minimum wage	12%	37%	26%	17%	8%
Pass new gun control	10%	24%	27%	31%	7%
Increase the debt limit	40%	36%	10%	5%	9%

8. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now?

Make gun laws more strict	48%
No change	31%
Make gun laws less strict	18%
Not sure	4%

9. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?

Personally own a gun	24%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun .	15%
No one in the household owns a gun	56%
Not sure	4%

10. Do you favor or oppose providing a way for illegal immigrants currently in the country to gain legal citizenship if they pass background checks, pay fines, and have jobs?

Favor	53%
Oppose	33%
Not sure	14%

11. Do you think the federal minimum wage should be changed?

Yes, increased significantly	41%
Yes, increased a little bit	30%
No, it should not be changed	19%
Yes, decreased a little bit	2%
Yes, decreased significantly	3%
Not sure	5%

12. Do you think a federal minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour is too high, about right, or too low?

Too high	27%
About right	48%
Too low	20%
Not sure	5%

13. Do you think the government should establish a legal minimum wage or should the government not interfere in private business matters?

Government should establish a minimum wage	56%
Government should not interfere in private business	33%
Not sure	11%

14. 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	31%
More of a failure than a success	18%
Equal amount of both failure and success	15%
More of a success than a failure	14%
A complete success	2%
Too early to tell	14%
Not sure	6%

15. 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	29%
We will know after the law has been in effect for one year	23%
We will know in a few months when we find out how many people have enrolled	14%
We know now even before the law has been put into effect	22%

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

Yes	22%
No	76%
Not sure	2%

17. How many times have you visited or attempted to visit healthcare.gov?

Mean	1
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18. Thinking about your most recent attempt, why did you visit healthcare.gov?

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

To buy health insurance	16%
To get information about health insurance	40%
Just curious	40%
Other	3%
Not sure	1%

19. Was your most recent experience at healthcare.gov positive or negative?

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

Very positive	12%
Somewhat positive	13%
Neither positive nor negative	22%
Somewhat negative	20%
Very negative	29%
Not sure	3%

20. Which month was your most recent visit to healthcare.gov?

October	8%
November	24%
December	56%
January	8%
Don't remember	4%

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

Expanded	27%
Kept the same	11%
Repealed	45%
Not sure	18%

22. Do you have health insurance?

Yes 78%
 No 22%

23. Will you buy a health insurance plan before the deadline or will you pay the fine instead?

Asked of those who do not have health insurance

Buy health insurance 13%
 Pay the fine 32%
 Already signed up 8%
 Not sure 46%

24. Do you think you are eligible for financial help from the federal government in order to afford health insurance?

Yes 25%
 No 50%
 Not sure 25%

25. Does an employer pay some part of your health insurance premium?

Asked of those who have health insurance

Yes 45%
 No 50%
 Not sure 5%

26. Is the amount you pay for your health insurance too much, about right, or too little?

Asked of those who have health insurance

Too much 32%
 About right 49%
 Too little 2%
 Not sure 16%

27. How much do you pay per month out of your pocket for your health insurance coverage?
Asked of those who have health insurance

Mean 139

28. Including yourself, how many other people in your household are covered by your health insurance plan?
Asked of those who have health insurance

Mean 1

29. What do you think is a reasonable amount to pay per month for health insurance for a single adult?

Mean 97

30. What do you think is a reasonable amount to pay per month for health insurance for a family of four? (The family consists of two adults and two children under 18)

Mean 230

31. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide health care plans that cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

Support 48%
Oppose 36%
Not sure 16%

32. Do you support or oppose giving churches and other religious organizations an exemption so that they would NOT be required to cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?
Asked of individuals who answered that they support requiring health insurance plans to cover the cost of contraceptives

Support 26%
Oppose 55%
Not sure 20%

33. Do you support or oppose giving institutions associated with religious organizations, such as charities, hospitals, and schools, an exemption so that they would NOT be required to cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

Asked of individuals who answered that they support requiring health insurance plans to cover the cost of contraceptives

Support	18%
Oppose	67%
Not sure	15%

34. Would you support or oppose requiring employers to provide health care plans that cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees IF you knew that all religious organizations and all charities, hospitals and schools associated with religious organizations would be given an exemption from the requirement?

Asked of individuals who answered that they oppose requiring health insurance plans to cover the cost of contraceptives

Support	11%
Oppose	80%
Not sure	9%

35. Do you support or oppose making the so-called "morning after" pill, which reduces the chance of pregnancy after sexual intercourse, available for over-the-counter purchase at drug stores for females of all ages?

Support	50%
Oppose	34%
Not sure	16%

36. How easy is it for a woman to obtain an abortion in the area where you live?

Very easy	21%
Somewhat easy	18%
Not easy	10%
Don't know	51%

37. Compared to where you live, do you think it is easier or harder for a woman to obtain an abortion in other parts of the country?

Easier	17%
About the same	26%
Harder	21%
Don't know	36%

38. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to abortion, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	50%
Should only be handled by federal government	32%
Not sure	18%

39. When do you think abortion should be legal?

Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.	18%
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions).	39%
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.	31%
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.	12%

40. How confident are you that the things people do on the following websites are private and will not be used by others without their permission?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	Don't know
Google	6%	18%	27%	42%	6%
Bing	4%	17%	26%	38%	14%
Facebook	4%	11%	25%	56%	4%
Amazon	10%	29%	26%	29%	7%
Twitter	3%	11%	27%	50%	10%
Healthcare.gov	9%	22%	18%	40%	11%
IRS	11%	23%	18%	39%	8%

41. How closely have you been following the news about a federal judge in Utah declaring that state's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional?

Very closely	9%
Somewhat closely	30%
Not very closely	32%
Not at all	29%

42. Which comes closest to your view?

Gay and Lesbian couples should be allowed to marry.	45%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry.	25%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship.	23%
Not sure	7%

43. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to same-sex marriage, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	50%
Should only be handled by federal government	34%
Not sure	16%

44. Do you think gay marriage will be legal in the entire country thirty years from now?

Yes 75%
No 25%

45. Do you personally know anybody who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender?

Yes 79%
No 21%

46. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society 63%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society 37%

47. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice 43%
Homosexuality is not a choice 57%

48. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	18%	3%	1%
Immigration	41%	37%	18%	5%
The environment	42%	35%	14%	9%
Terrorism	53%	30%	13%	4%
Gay rights	24%	25%	25%	26%
Education	64%	25%	8%	3%
Health care	66%	24%	6%	3%
Social security	62%	27%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	55%	30%	12%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	38%	23%	8%
Taxes	62%	29%	7%	2%
Medicare	55%	30%	10%	4%
Abortion	33%	34%	23%	9%

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

The economy	30%
Immigration	5%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	10%
Health care	11%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	5%
Abortion	2%

50. 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%	22%	11%	38%	3%
Joe Biden	18%	24%	15%	32%	12%
John Boehner	3%	17%	23%	34%	22%
Mitch McConnell	3%	13%	21%	28%	34%
Harry Reid	7%	17%	15%	31%	30%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	18%	15%	37%	19%
Hillary Clinton	29%	24%	12%	30%	6%
Chris Christie	10%	31%	22%	14%	23%

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

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	3%

52. 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	12%	26%	15%	38%	9%
Immigration	12%	24%	16%	33%	15%
The environment	11%	26%	19%	26%	18%
Terrorism	18%	28%	15%	28%	11%
Gay rights	18%	25%	11%	29%	17%
Education	14%	28%	18%	25%	15%
Health care	19%	22%	9%	42%	7%
Social security	13%	24%	16%	32%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	25%	22%	29%	12%
The budget deficit	13%	21%	15%	39%	12%
Taxes	12%	25%	16%	35%	13%
Medicare	13%	25%	16%	33%	14%
Abortion	11%	23%	12%	29%	25%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Not sure	7%

54. 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	10%	26%	21%	34%	9%
Republicans in Congress	6%	19%	25%	41%	10%

55. 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%	29%	15%	35%	9%
The Republican Party	5%	21%	26%	39%	9%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	36%
The Republican Party candidate	27%
Other	5%
Not sure	22%
I would not vote	10%

57. 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	38%
The Republican Party candidate	28%
Other	4%
Not sure	21%
I would not vote	10%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	36%
Conservative	28%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	2%

59. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	35%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	11%

60. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	52%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	33%
Not sure	7%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	41%	31%	29%
Bold	26%	58%	16%
Effective	21%	47%	32%
Exciting	12%	68%	20%
Experienced	17%	54%	29%
Honest	30%	32%	38%
Hypocritical	39%	39%	22%
Inspiring	30%	47%	24%
Intelligent	53%	31%	16%
Partisan	23%	61%	15%
Patriotic	28%	45%	28%
Religious	14%	59%	27%
Sincere	30%	39%	31%
Steady	25%	58%	17%
Strong	30%	47%	24%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	24%
About the same	34%
Lower	20%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	3%

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

Owned by you or your family	61%
Rented from someone else	38%
Other	1%

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

Increased	23%
Stayed about the same	43%
Decreased	26%
Not sure	8%

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

Increased	42%
Stayed about the same	28%
Decreased	10%
Not sure	20%

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

Will increase a lot	7%
Will increase a little	35%
Will stay about the same	28%
Will decrease a little	11%
Will decrease a lot	3%
Not sure	15%

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

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	21%
Not worried	31%
Don't have mortgage payments	40%

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

Will definitely buy a home	3%
Am considering buying a home	16%
Not looking for a home now	81%

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

Yes	27%
No	73%

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

Full-time employed	37%
Part-time employed	11%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	16%
Retired	17%
Permanently disabled	10%
Homemaker	8%
Other	2%

74. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	13%
No	87%

75. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	14%
Somewhat worried	31%
Not very worried	55%

76. 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.	41%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	32%
Not very hard	20%
Not sure	7%

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

More jobs	21%
The same amount of jobs	40%
Fewer jobs	28%
Not sure	10%

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

Very happy	19%
Happy	31%
Neither happy nor unhappy	32%
Unhappy	10%
Very unhappy	7%

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

Higher	21%
Same	64%
Lower	15%

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

I don't have any savings	37%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	20%
I could last a few months on my savings	22%
I could last a year on my savings	9%
I could last more than a year on my savings	12%

81. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

82. 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	13%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	18%

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

Yes	14%
No	69%
Not Sure	17%

84. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

85. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	26%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	7%

86. What is your marital status?

Married	45%
Separated	2%
Divorced	9%
Widowed	4%
Single	36%
Domestic partnership	5%

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

Yes	29%
No	71%

88. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	41%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too important	13%
Not at all important	18%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	9%
A few times a year	16%
Seldom	24%
Never	27%
Don't know	1%

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

Several times a day	28%
Once a day	18%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	13%
Never	15%
Don't know	2%

91. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	38%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	4%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	5%

92. Age

18-29	26%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	14%

93. Race

White	67%
Black	15%
Hispanic	12%
Other	6%

94. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	24%
South	36%
West	22%

95. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	21%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	24%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 4-6, 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 0.2 to 4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.76.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.