

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted December 13-15, 2014  
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  | 47% |
| Some of the time  | 30% |
| Only now and then | 14% |
| Hardly at all     | 8%  |
| Don't know        | 1%  |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction | 24% |
| Off on the wrong track                  | 65% |
| Not sure                                | 12% |

3. Did the financial crisis of 2008 have much of an impact on you personally?

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| A serious effect           | 43% |
| Not a very serious effect. | 47% |
| Not sure                   | 10% |

4. How much responsibility do you think the following groups have for CAUSING the financial crisis of 2008?

|  | A great deal | Some | Only a little | None | Not sure |
|--|--------------|------|---------------|------|----------|
| Wall Street companies  | 53%          | 28%  | 8%            | 3%   | 9%       |
| Major banks and financial institutions                           | 62%          | 23%  | 5%            | 2%   | 8%       |
| The Securities Exchange Commission and other government agencies | 39%          | 31%  | 10%           | 4%   | 17%      |
| The Obama Administration   | 24%          | 18%  | 16%           | 32%  | 10%      |
| The Bush Administration  | 32%          | 33%  | 19%           | 6%   | 10%      |
| American consumers   | 14%          | 30%  | 32%           | 13%  | 11%      |

5. In your opinion, has the United States recovered from the financial crisis of 2008?

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Has recovered      | 18% |
| Has yet to recover | 62% |
| Will never recover | 12% |
| Not sure           | 9%  |

6. What do you think are the chances of another financial crisis in the next 12 months?

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Very likely (more than 50%)  | 18% |
| Somewhat likely (10% to 50%) | 39% |
| Not very likely (1% to 10%)  | 25% |
| Very unlikely (less than 1%) | 5%  |
| Not sure                     | 14% |

7. Do you think there should be more or less federal government regulation of the financial industry?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| More .....             | 38% |
| Keep it the same ..... | 22% |
| Lesss .....            | 24% |
| Not sure .....         | 17% |

8. Overall, how much do you trust Wall Street bankers and brokers to do what is best for the economy?

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| A great deal ..... | 3%  |
| Somewhat .....     | 14% |
| A little .....     | 28% |
| Not at all .....   | 55% |

9. Please say if you tend to agree or disagree with the following statements about Wall Street.

|  | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|--|-------|----------|----------|
| Wall Street is absolutely essential because it provides the money businesses must have for investment.                             | 43%   | 22%      | 34%      |
| Most people on Wall Street would be willing to break the law if they believed they could make a lot of money and get away with it. | 73%   | 13%      | 14%      |
| Wall Street only cares about money and absolutely nothing else.  | 72%   | 13%      | 15%      |
| Wall Street is dominated by greed and selfishness.   | 73%   | 11%      | 17%      |
| Most successful people on Wall Street deserve to make the kind of money they earn.   | 23%   | 51%      | 26%      |
| In general, what is good for Wall Street is good for the country.  | 20%   | 51%      | 29%      |
| In general, people on Wall Street are as honest and moral as other people.   | 19%   | 59%      | 22%      |
| Recent events have shown that Wall Street should be subject to tougher regulations.  | 62%   | 14%      | 24%      |
| Wall Street firms should only pay bonuses when they are doing well and making good profits.  | 68%   | 14%      | 19%      |

10. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from another financial crisis?

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| More safe ..... | 18% |
| No effect ..... | 25% |
| Less safe ..... | 39% |
| Not sure .....  | 18% |

11. On the subject of climate change do you think:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| The world's climate is changing as a result of human activity .....     | 53% |
| The world's climate is changing but NOT because of human activity ..... | 29% |
| The world's climate is NOT changing .....                               | 9%  |
| Not sure .....  | 10% |

12. How sure are you that climate change is (changing as a result of human activity / changing but NOT because of human activity / NOT changing)?

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Absolutely sure ..... | 35% |
| Pretty sure .....     | 36% |
| Somewhat sure .....   | 19% |
| Not very sure .....   | 7%  |
| Not sure at all ..... | 2%  |

13. To the best of your knowledge, do you think there is a consensus in the scientific community that climate change is occurring and is mainly caused by human activity?

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes .....      | 55% |
| No .....       | 28% |
| Not sure ..... | 17% |

14. Do you think the world’s most developed countries have a greater responsibility to control greenhouse gases and pollution than less developed countries do?

Yes .....58%  
 No .....30%  
 Not sure .....12%

15. Do you agree or disagree that developed countries have a responsibility to help poorer nations with the effects of climate change?

Strongly agree .....19%  
 Somewhat agree .....37%  
 Somewhat disagree .....17%  
 Strongly disagree .....15%  
 Not sure .....12%

16. How much do you trust the following groups to tell the truth about climate change?

|  | Completely | A lot | A moderate amount | A little | Not at all |
|--|------------|-------|-------------------|----------|------------|
| Climate scientists                         | 19%        | 24%   | 24%               | 15%      | 18%        |
| Republican politicians                     | 3%         | 5%    | 22%               | 24%      | 45%        |
| Democratic politicians                     | 4%         | 9%    | 27%               | 17%      | 43%        |
| Military officials                         | 3%         | 9%    | 30%               | 28%      | 30%        |
| Federal government officials               | 3%         | 7%    | 24%               | 25%      | 40%        |
| State government officials                 | 2%         | 7%    | 29%               | 27%      | 35%        |
| Representatives from oil and gas companies | 3%         | 6%    | 17%               | 20%      | 55%        |

**17. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling climate change?**

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....    | 9%  |
| Somewhat approve .....    | 27% |
| Somewhat disapprove ..... | 15% |
| Strongly disapprove ..... | 28% |
| No opinion .....          | 21% |

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

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Expanded .....      | 28% |
| Kept the same ..... | 14% |
| Repealed .....      | 45% |
| Not sure .....      | 13% |

**19. 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 .....         | 25% |
| Equal amount of both failure and success ..... | 18% |
| More of a success than a failure .....         | 20% |
| A complete success .....                       | 6%  |
| Too early to tell .....                        | 6%  |
| Not sure .....                                 | 5%  |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Increased .....         | 49% |
| Remained the same ..... | 18% |
| Decreased .....         | 19% |
| Don't know .....        | 14% |

21. 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 ..... | 48% |
| The law has not had an effect on health insurance prices for most people .....                         | 16% |
| The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase less than they usually do ..... | 15% |
| Not sure .....   | 20% |

22. Do you have health insurance?

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes ..... | 84% |
| No .....  | 16% |

23. Did you have health insurance for all of 2013?

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes ..... | 82% |
| No .....  | 18% |



24. How important are the following issues to you?

|                        | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The economy            | 72%            | 25%                | 2%                 | 1%          |
| Immigration            | 44%            | 35%                | 14%                | 8%          |
| The environment        | 43%            | 36%                | 13%                | 8%          |
| Terrorism              | 50%            | 31%                | 14%                | 5%          |
| Gay rights             | 20%            | 24%                | 23%                | 33%         |
| Education              | 56%            | 31%                | 10%                | 3%          |
| Health care            | 62%            | 29%                | 7%                 | 2%          |
| Social security        | 61%            | 30%                | 7%                 | 2%          |
| The budget deficit     | 49%            | 34%                | 12%                | 5%          |
| The war in Afghanistan | 29%            | 38%                | 23%                | 10%         |
| Taxes                  | 56%            | 31%                | 11%                | 1%          |
| Medicare               | 52%            | 32%                | 13%                | 3%          |
| Abortion               | 33%            | 31%                | 23%                | 14%         |
| Foreign policy         | 35%            | 44%                | 15%                | 5%          |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| The economy            | 26% |
| Immigration            | 9%  |
| The environment        | 7%  |
| Terrorism              | 5%  |
| Gay rights             | 2%  |
| Education              | 9%  |
| Health care            | 9%  |
| Social security        | 13% |
| The budget deficit     | 8%  |
| The war in Afghanistan | 0%  |
| Taxes                  | 4%  |
| Medicare               | 3%  |
| Abortion               | 4%  |
| Foreign policy         | 2%  |

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    | 20%            | 23%                | 12%                  | 40%              | 5%         |
| Joe Biden       | 14%            | 27%                | 16%                  | 30%              | 14%        |
| John Boehner    | 3%             | 15%                | 23%                  | 35%              | 24%        |
| Mitch McConnell | 4%             | 15%                | 20%                  | 30%              | 31%        |
| Harry Reid      | 4%             | 16%                | 16%                  | 34%              | 29%        |
| Nancy Pelosi    | 9%             | 17%                | 15%                  | 39%              | 20%        |

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        | 10%            | 27%                | 15%                  | 23%              | 25%        |
| Chris Christie   | 8%             | 22%                | 22%                  | 27%              | 22%        |
| Paul Ryan        | 11%            | 23%                | 14%                  | 27%              | 26%        |
| Jeb Bush         | 7%             | 24%                | 20%                  | 29%              | 20%        |
| Mike Huckabee    | 11%            | 20%                | 14%                  | 25%              | 29%        |
| Marco Rubio      | 8%             | 21%                | 15%                  | 25%              | 30%        |
| Hillary Clinton  | 21%            | 24%                | 11%                  | 37%              | 7%         |
| Elizabeth Warren | 17%            | 12%                | 11%                  | 23%              | 38%        |
| Ted Cruz         | 11%            | 17%                | 12%                  | 30%              | 30%        |
| Scott Walker     | 14%            | 11%                | 9%                   | 23%              | 43%        |
| Brian Schweitzer | 2%             | 8%                 | 11%                  | 10%              | 69%        |
| Rick Perry       | 10%            | 20%                | 14%                  | 28%              | 29%        |
| Bernie Sanders   | 12%            | 9%                 | 13%                  | 15%              | 51%        |
| Martin O'Malley  | 3%             | 7%                 | 9%                   | 12%              | 69%        |
| Jim Webb         | 4%             | 11%                | 11%                  | 10%              | 65%        |
| Mitt Romney      | 13%            | 22%                | 19%                  | 31%              | 14%        |
| Lindsey Graham   | 3%             | 15%                | 15%                  | 25%              | 41%        |
| Ben Carson       | 15%            | 12%                | 8%                   | 15%              | 50%        |

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

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....    | 14% |
| Somewhat approve .....    | 31% |
| Somewhat disapprove ..... | 13% |
| Strongly disapprove ..... | 39% |
| Not sure .....            | 3%  |

**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            | 19%              | 24%              | 16%                 | 35%                 | 6%         |
| Immigration            | 17%              | 23%              | 11%                 | 41%                 | 8%         |
| The environment        | 14%              | 31%              | 16%                 | 27%                 | 12%        |
| Terrorism              | 14%              | 31%              | 17%                 | 30%                 | 9%         |
| Gay rights             | 16%              | 28%              | 11%                 | 26%                 | 19%        |
| Education              | 15%              | 26%              | 20%                 | 23%                 | 15%        |
| Health care            | 23%              | 21%              | 11%                 | 39%                 | 6%         |
| Social security        | 13%              | 25%              | 16%                 | 28%                 | 18%        |
| The war in Afghanistan | 12%              | 26%              | 22%                 | 31%                 | 9%         |
| The budget deficit     | 13%              | 22%              | 16%                 | 38%                 | 10%        |
| Taxes                  | 12%              | 25%              | 19%                 | 32%                 | 12%        |
| Medicare               | 16%              | 23%              | 18%                 | 28%                 | 15%        |
| Abortion               | 11%              | 23%              | 11%                 | 28%                 | 27%        |
| Foreign policy         | 12%              | 25%              | 18%                 | 34%                 | 11%        |

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

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....               | 2%  |
| Somewhat approve .....               | 9%  |
| Neither approve nor disapprove ..... | 15% |
| Somewhat disapprove .....            | 22% |
| Strongly disapprove .....            | 43% |
| Not sure .....                       | 9%  |

31. Are you better off now than you were when President Obama first took office in 2009?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Better off now ..... | 22% |
| About the same ..... | 35% |
| Worse off now .....  | 36% |
| Not sure .....       | 7%  |

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 36% |
| Liberal .....           | 21% |
| Moderate .....          | 25% |
| Conservative .....      | 6%  |
| Very conservative ..... | 2%  |
| Not sure .....          | 10% |

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

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very strong .....     | 13% |
| Somewhat strong ..... | 29% |
| Somewhat weak .....   | 27% |
| Very weak .....       | 31% |

**34. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot .....    | 31% |
| Like somewhat ..... | 28% |
| Dislike .....       | 31% |
| Not sure .....      | 10% |

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

|              | Yes | No Opinion | No  |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Arrogant     | 41% | 34%        | 25% |
| Bold         | 24% | 58%        | 19% |
| Effective    | 16% | 47%        | 37% |
| Exciting     | 10% | 66%        | 24% |
| Experienced  | 15% | 54%        | 30% |
| Honest       | 23% | 40%        | 38% |
| Hypocritical | 38% | 41%        | 21% |
| Inspiring    | 25% | 47%        | 27% |
| Intelligent  | 51% | 32%        | 16% |
| Partisan     | 25% | 61%        | 14% |
| Patriotic    | 19% | 49%        | 32% |
| Religious    | 13% | 56%        | 31% |
| Sincere      | 26% | 42%        | 32% |
| Steady       | 20% | 62%        | 18% |
| Strong       | 22% | 50%        | 28% |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 6%  |
| Liberal .....           | 18% |
| Moderate .....          | 36% |
| Conservative .....      | 29% |
| Very conservative ..... | 9%  |
| Not sure .....          | 1%  |

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

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Yes .....        | 70% |
| No .....         | 27% |
| Don't know ..... | 3%  |

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

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Not a registered voter .....         | 30% |
| The Democratic Party candidate ..... | 27% |
| The Republican Party candidate ..... | 24% |
| Other .....                          | 2%  |
| Not sure .....                       | 15% |
| I would not vote .....               | 2%  |

**40. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the member of the US House of Representatives that represents your Congressional district is handling his or her job?**

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....               | 8%  |
| Somewhat approve .....               | 20% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove ..... | 20% |
| Somewhat disapprove .....            | 11% |
| Strongly disapprove .....            | 22% |
| Not sure .....                       | 18% |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better ..... | 27% |
| About the same ..... | 40% |
| Getting worse .....  | 29% |
| Not sure .....       | 4%  |

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

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| More jobs .....               | 18% |
| The same amount of jobs ..... | 44% |
| Fewer jobs .....              | 23% |
| Not sure .....                | 15% |

**43. 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 .....                   | 6%  |
| Military Household - I served previously .....      | 12% |
| Military Household - Family served previously ..... | 35% |
| Military Household - None .....                     | 51% |

**44. Gender**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Male .....   | 49% |
| Female ..... | 51% |

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

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly support .....            | 15% |
| Somewhat support .....            | 23% |
| Neither support, nor oppose ..... | 16% |
| Somewhat oppose .....             | 8%  |
| Strongly oppose .....             | 24% |
| Not sure .....                    | 15% |

**46. Education**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| No high school .....       | 9%  |
| High school graduate ..... | 34% |
| Some college .....         | 23% |
| 2-year college .....       | 9%  |
| 4-year college .....       | 15% |
| Post-graduate .....        | 9%  |

**47. Age**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-29 ..... | 25% |
| 30-44 ..... | 26% |
| 45-64 ..... | 34% |
| 65+ .....   | 15% |

**48. Race**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| White .....    | 67% |
| Black .....    | 14% |
| Hispanic ..... | 12% |
| Other .....    | 7%  |



**49. Region**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast ..... | 20% |
| Midwest .....   | 23% |
| South .....     | 38% |
| West .....      | 19% |

**50. Party Identification**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Democratic .....  | 36% |
| Independent ..... | 36% |
| Republican .....  | 28% |

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sponsorship</b>            | <i>The Economist</i>  |
| <b>Fieldwork</b>              | YouGov  |
| <b>Interviewing Dates</b>     | December 13-15, 2014  |
| <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 0.1 to 4.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.03.   |
| <b>Number of respondents</b>  | 1000  |
| <b>Margin of error</b>        | ± 4.5% (adjusted for weighting)   |
| <b>Survey mode</b>            | Web-based interviews  |
| <b>Questions not reported</b> | 21 questions not reported.  |