

Sample 1647 US Adults
Conducted December 31, 2016 - January 3, 2017
Margin of Error $\pm 3\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	57%
Not sure	17%

2. Is the country better off now than it was eight years ago?

Better off now	35%
Better off eight years ago	36%
No difference	17%
Not sure	13%

3. Are you better off now than you were eight years ago?

Better off now	33%
Better off eight years ago	33%
No difference	26%
Not sure	8%

4. Do you expect that the country will be better off or worse off in four years?

Better off	35%
Worse off	38%
About the same	12%
Not sure	15%

5. Do you expect that you will be better off or worse off in four years?

Better off	42%
Worse off	22%
About the same	22%
Not sure	14%

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the presidential transition?

Strongly Approve	22%
Somewhat Approve	20%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%
Strongly Disapprove	32%
Not Sure	14%

7. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Donald Trump as President?

Optimistic	43%
Pessimistic	39%
Not sure	18%

8. In making his nominations to Cabinet positions, how much attention do you think President-elect Trump is paying to the needs and problems of...

	Too much	Too little	The right amount	Not sure
Rich people	46%	8%	25%	21%
Working people	5%	45%	33%	16%
Poor people	5%	48%	28%	19%
People like you	4%	49%	29%	18%

9. How likely do you think it is that Donald Trump will get us into a war?

Very likely	26%
Fairly likely	25%
Fairly unlikely	19%
Very unlikely	13%
Not sure	16%

10. Do you think it is appropriate or inappropriate for a President to "tweet", send public messages via Twitter?

Appropriate	32%
Inappropriate	48%
Not sure	19%

11. Do you think the federal government should increase or decrease spending on the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal?

Increase spending	22%
Decrease spending	32%
Keep spending level the same	26%
Not sure	20%

12. Do you think the United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability, or not?

Yes	30%
No	42%
Not sure	28%

13. Do you think it would be a good idea or a bad idea for the countries listed below to develop nuclear weapons?

	Good idea	Bad idea	Not sure
Iran	3%	84%	13%
Japan	15%	64%	22%
South Korea	13%	68%	19%
Syria	4%	82%	14%
Saudi Arabia	5%	79%	16%

14. Looking back at 2016, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	4%
A good year	23%
A bad year	49%
A very bad year	24%

15. Looking back at 2016, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year	6%
A good year	50%
A bad year	32%
A very bad year	12%

16. In the last year, has the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	7%
No change	28%
Less respected	65%

17. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were a year ago when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	3%	7%	22%	25%	31%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	4%	11%	34%	21%	16%	14%
Energy issues	5%	16%	34%	20%	13%	13%
The environment	5%	14%	37%	20%	14%	9%
The economy in your area	5%	22%	35%	17%	12%	8%
Job security	5%	17%	31%	20%	18%	8%
Government spending	3%	9%	28%	22%	27%	10%
Health care coverage	9%	17%	20%	21%	27%	7%
Education	4%	12%	35%	23%	16%	9%
Social Security and Medicare	4%	8%	34%	26%	19%	9%
The U.S. financial system	5%	13%	26%	26%	18%	11%
Wall Street	9%	19%	29%	15%	10%	18%
The national economy	8%	20%	23%	23%	18%	9%

18. Compared to a year ago, do you find politics more or less interesting?

More interesting	33%
About the same	35%
Less interesting	24%
Not sure	8%

19. Compared to a year ago, do you think political discussion has become more negative or less negative?

More negative	65%
About the same	17%
Less negative	7%
Not sure	10%

20. Compared to a year ago, do you think the US is more or less safe from terrorist attacks now?

Much more safe now	3%
Somewhat more safe now	10%
About the same	36%
Somewhat less safe now	19%
Much less safe now	23%
Not sure	9%

21. Compared to a year ago, do you think your community is more or less safe from terrorist attacks now?

Much more safe now	4%
Somewhat more safe now	7%
About the same	56%
Somewhat less safe now	13%
Much less safe now	11%
Not sure	10%

22. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	24%
About what I expected	28%
Less than I expected	37%
Not sure	11%

23. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	18%
Above Average	23%
Average	17%
Below Average	11%
Poor	25%
Not Sure	7%

24. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	9%	14%	15%	46%	15%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	20%	22%	12%	36%	9%
Improving the economy	24%	21%	18%	30%	8%

25. Do you think the current Congress is better or worse than the previous Congress?

Better	12%
About the same	37%
Worse	31%
Not sure	19%

26. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2017 will be for the world?

Very optimistic	17%
Somewhat optimistic	26%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	21%
Somewhat pessimistic	18%
Very pessimistic	18%

27. How do you feel about your family's future in the upcoming year?

Very optimistic	16%
Somewhat optimistic	32%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	29%
Somewhat pessimistic	14%
Very pessimistic	8%

28. In the year ahead, will the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	30%
No change	28%
Less respected	43%

29. In 2017, do you think things will be better off or worse off than they were in 2016 when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	7%	17%	21%	19%	21%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	7%	16%	30%	16%	16%	15%
Energy issues	9%	19%	25%	15%	19%	12%
The environment	7%	14%	33%	15%	21%	11%
The economy in your area	10%	22%	34%	14%	11%	10%
Job security	11%	21%	26%	15%	15%	12%
Government spending	11%	20%	20%	17%	21%	11%
Health care coverage	11%	20%	17%	17%	23%	11%
Education	9%	18%	30%	16%	15%	11%
Social Security and Medicare	8%	16%	26%	18%	21%	11%
The U.S. financial system	11%	22%	21%	17%	17%	13%
Wall Street	12%	22%	24%	14%	12%	16%
The national economy	13%	24%	19%	17%	16%	12%

30. In the year ahead, do you think politics will be more or less interesting?

More interesting	39%
About the same	32%
Less interesting	17%
Not sure	12%

31. In the year ahead, do you think political discussion will become more negative or less negative?

More negative	47%
About the same	28%
Less negative	13%
Not sure	12%

32. Do you think the US will be more or less safe from terrorist attacks this time next year?

Much more safe next year	8%
Somewhat more safe next year	17%
About the same	30%
Somewhat less safe next year	16%
Much less safe next year	16%
Not sure	12%

33. In the year ahead, do you think your community will be more or less safe from terrorist attacks this time next year?

Much more safe next year	6%
Somewhat more safe next year	14%
About the same	50%
Somewhat less safe next year	10%
Much less safe next year	8%
Not sure	11%

34. What do you think are the chances of a major terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%)	20%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	40%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	18%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	5%
Not sure	17%

35. As a President, how do you think Donald Trump will go down in history?

Outstanding	12%
Above Average	18%
Average	11%
Below Average	8%
Poor	31%
Not Sure	20%

36. In 2017, do you think the Congress will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	32%
About the same	28%
Less than usual	21%
Not sure	19%

37. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	69%	26%	4%	1%
Immigration	46%	33%	16%	5%
The environment	47%	34%	14%	6%
Terrorism	60%	30%	8%	3%
Gay rights	22%	25%	24%	29%
Education	56%	32%	9%	3%
Health care	72%	22%	4%	2%
Social security	64%	25%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	46%	35%	14%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	44%	20%	7%
Taxes	54%	36%	9%	2%
Medicare	60%	29%	9%	3%
Abortion	37%	29%	21%	13%
Foreign policy	44%	39%	12%	5%
Gun control	47%	27%	16%	10%
International trade and globalization	34%	45%	16%	6%
Use of military force	43%	42%	11%	4%

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

The economy	14%
Immigration	7%
The environment	8%
Terrorism	9%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	15%
Social security	17%
The budget deficit	3%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	5%
Abortion	4%
Foreign policy	2%
Gun control	3%

39. 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	34%	20%	10%	30%	5%
Donald Trump	21%	20%	13%	38%	8%
Hillary Clinton	17%	22%	15%	40%	6%
Joe Biden	24%	25%	15%	19%	17%
Mike Pence	20%	19%	14%	24%	23%
Paul Ryan	7%	26%	21%	21%	25%
Mitch McConnell	4%	14%	18%	24%	39%
Nancy Pelosi	8%	18%	16%	29%	30%
Harry Reid	6%	16%	13%	26%	39%
Chuck Schumer	6%	16%	16%	16%	46%

40. 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	16%	26%	18%	27%	12%
The Republican Party	12%	24%	19%	32%	13%

41. Is the Democratic Party...

Too liberal	36%
About right	27%
Not liberal enough	13%
Not sure	23%

42. Is the Republican Party...

Too conservative	35%
About right	24%
Not conservative enough	17%
Not sure	24%

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

Strongly Approve	26%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	29%
Not Sure	8%

44. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	26%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	18%

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

Very strong	24%
Somewhat strong	29%
Somewhat weak	19%
Very weak	29%

46. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	48%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	39%
Not sure	13%

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

Like a lot	41%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	10%

48. How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	32%
Some	22%
Not much	13%
Doesn't care at all	26%
Not sure	7%

49. Do you think Barack Obama has maintained consistent policy positions or has he made significant changes to his policy plans?

Maintained consistent policy positions	41%
Made significant changes to his policy plans	30%
Not sure	28%

50. 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
Abortion	19%	23%	11%	23%	24%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	25%	20%	25%	18%
The budget deficit	15%	24%	16%	28%	16%
The economy	22%	24%	15%	25%	13%
Education	18%	29%	15%	21%	17%
The environment	23%	27%	14%	19%	17%
Foreign policy	18%	24%	15%	27%	16%
Gay rights	25%	21%	11%	22%	21%
Gun control	15%	23%	18%	28%	15%
Health care	23%	22%	14%	33%	8%
Immigration	17%	21%	15%	33%	14%
Medicare	20%	24%	17%	22%	16%
Social security	18%	24%	17%	22%	18%
Taxes	14%	25%	17%	26%	18%
Terrorism	18%	25%	14%	29%	15%

51. Would you say Donald Trump is...

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	20%
Conservative	23%
Very conservative	14%
Not sure	31%

52. Would you say Donald Trump is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	25%
Somewhat strong	31%
Somewhat weak	18%
Very weak	27%

53. Do you think Donald Trump...

Says what he believes	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	42%
Not sure	14%

54. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Donald Trump as a person?

Like a lot	18%
Like somewhat	24%
Dislike	46%
Not sure	12%

55. How much do you think Donald Trump cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	18%
Some	21%
Not much	15%
Doesn't care at all	37%
Not sure	8%

56. Do you think Donald Trump has maintained consistent policy positions or has he made significant changes to his policy plans?

Maintained consistent policy positions	23%
Made significant changes to his policy plans	44%
Not sure	33%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	29%
Not sure	17%

58. 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	12%	24%	20%	27%	16%
Republicans in Congress	8%	22%	22%	33%	16%

59. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Paul Ryan is handling his job as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	19%
Not sure	31%

60. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mitch McConnell is handling his job as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	23%
Not sure	38%

61. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Harry Reid is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	24%
Not sure	39%

62. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as the Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	32%

63. 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	4%
About the same	32%
Less than usual	41%
Not sure	23%

64. Who is more to blame for Congress achieving less than usual?

Asked if respondent says Congress accomplished less than usual

Democrats in Congress	14%
Republicans in Congress	43%
Both equally	38%
Neither	2%
Not sure	2%

65. Do you think the next Congress will accomplish more or less than this Congress has?

Next Congress will accomplish more	34%
About the same	26%
Next Congress will accomplish less	14%
Not sure	25%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	26%
Not sure	12%

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

Higher	30%
About the same	26%
Lower	19%
Not sure	25%

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

Better off financially	19%
About the same as now	44%
Worse off financially	28%
Not sure	8%

69. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	32%
The same amount of jobs	31%
Fewer jobs	18%
Not sure	18%

70. If you could do over your presidential vote, would you vote for...

Hillary Clinton	33%
Donald Trump	35%
Gary Johnson	4%
Jill Stein	2%
Evan McMullin	1%
Someone else	10%
I would not vote for President	16%

71. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	13%
Somewhat worried	29%
Not very worried	58%

72. 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.	34%
Not very hard	21%
Not sure	11%

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

Very happy	25%
Happy	35%
Neither happy nor unhappy	27%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	6%

74. 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	42%
Some of the time	29%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	8%
Don’t know	6%

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

Liberal	25%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	30%
Not sure	13%

76. Thinking about politics these days, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	20%
Very Conservative	10%
Not sure	13%

77. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	75%
Not registered	25%

78. Did you vote in the election on Tuesday 8 November 2016?

Yes	56%
No	44%

79. Who did you vote for in the election for President?

Hillary Clinton	26%
Donald Trump	26%
Gary Johnson	1%
Jill Stein	1%
Evan McMullin	0%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	45%

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

Democrat	39%
Republican	27%
Independent	31%
Other	4%

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

Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	14%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	9%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	14%
Not sure	7%

82. Would you describe yourself as a libertarian?

Yes	16%
No	53%
Not sure	31%

83. Would you describe yourself as a progressive?

Yes	33%
No	38%
Not sure	29%

84. Are you male or female?

Male	49%
Female	51%

85. Respondent age by category

Under 30	22%
30-44	26%
45-64	33%
65+	20%

86. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	38%
Some college	34%
College grad	18%
Postgrad	10%

87. What is your marital status?

Married	45%
Separated	4%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	5%
Single	30%
Domestic partnership	4%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

89. Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	20%
Midwest	21%
South	37%
West	21%

90. How would you describe the place where you live?

City	35%
Suburb	34%
Town	13%
Rural area	18%
Other	1%

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

Full-time employed	33%
Part-time employed	16%
Self-employed	-
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	10%
Retired	24%
Permanently disabled	9%
Homemaker	8%
Other	1%

92. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family’s annual income?

Under \$50K	53%
\$50-100K	25%
\$100K or more	11%
Prefer not to say	12%

93. 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.

I am	3%
Family member	9%
I served previously	10%
Family served previously	39%
None	48%

94. Are you or is someone in your household a member of a labor union?

Yes, I am	9%
Yes, household member is	7%
No	85%

95. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	38%
Somewhat important	29%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	18%

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

More than once a week	9%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	9%
A few times a year	15%
Seldom	22%
Never	27%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

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

Several times a day	27%
Once a day	17%
A few times a week	11%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	16%
Never	16%
Don't know	3%

99. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	33%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	3%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	4%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	24%
Something else	6%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 31, 2016 - January 3, 2017
Target population	US Adult Population
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2014 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2014 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, and 2016 Presidential vote. The weights range from 0.2 to 4.7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.72.
Number of respondents	1647 1447 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.