

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted April 20-22, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.8\%$

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	43%
Some of the time	33%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	11%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	20%

3. "How closely have you been following the news covering the Boston Marathon bombings?"

Very closely	38%
Somewhat closely	43%
Not very closely	16%
Not at all	2%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way law enforcement agencies have been handling the attacks at the Boston Marathon?

Strongly approve	49%
Somewhat approve	29%
Somewhat disapprove	5%
Strongly disapprove	4%
Not sure	14%

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has been handling the attacks at the Boston Marathon?

Strongly approve	32%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	14%
Not sure	21%

6. Would you say you personally are very concerned about a terrorist attack in the area where you live, or not?

Very concerned	14%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not very concerned	53%
Not sure	6%

7. Overall, would you say you agree with the following statement, or not? Please choose the option which comes closer to your view. Americans will always have to live with the risk of terrorism.

Yes, I agree	79%
No, I do not agree	11%
Not sure	10%

8. Some people think installing video surveillance cameras in public places is a good idea because they may help to reduce the threat of terrorism. Other people think this is a bad idea because surveillance cameras may infringe on people’s privacy rights. Which comes closer to your view? Would you say it is more of a good idea or a bad idea to install surveillance cameras in public places?

Good idea	63%
Bad idea	19%
Not sure	18%

9. For each of the following, do you think the federal government has done all it could reasonably be expected to do to improve security in these area since September 11, 2001, or could it have done more?

	Done all it could	Could have done more	Not sure
Trains and mass transit systems	31%	39%	30%
Airport security	46%	32%	23%
Security at large public events	36%	39%	25%

10. How serious a threat do you think Al Qaeda poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	28%
A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	39%
A minor threat to the U.S.	17%
Not a threat to the U.S.	4%
Not sure	11%

11. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?

Much more safe	8%
Somewhat more safe	35%
About the same	28%
Somewhat less safe	9%
Much less safe	10%
Not sure	9%

12. Which comes closer to your view?

In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism	49%
In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs	51%

13. Compared with other American citizens, do you think Muslim Americans are...

More patriotic	5%
About as patriotic	51%
Less patriotic	44%

14. How much discrimination do the following groups face in America today?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not much	None at all
Muslim Americans	35%	36%	17%	11%
Christian Americans	17%	22%	29%	33%
Jewish Americans	11%	37%	36%	17%
Americans who don't believe in God	11%	26%	37%	26%

15. Which party do you think would do a better job in preventing terrorist attacks in the future?

Democrats	22%
Republicans	28%
About the same	49%

16. Do you think the policies of the Bush Administration made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	33%
No effect	37%
Less safe	30%

17. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	27%
No effect	39%
Less safe	34%

18. Would you that you feel generally safe from terrorist attacks, that you feel somewhat uneasy, or that you feel in danger?

Generally safe	52%
Somewhat uneasy	40%
In danger	8%

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

Very likely (more than 50%)	24%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	41%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	17%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	3%
Not sure	14%

20. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict	52%
No change	26%
Less strict	13%
Not sure	8%

21. Do you favor or oppose the following gun control measure?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	71%	15%	13%

22. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the NRA?

Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	24%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	25%
Not sure	21%

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling gun control?

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	22%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	29%
Not Sure	19%

24. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	75%	20%	3%	3%
Immigration	43%	34%	16%	6%
The environment	39%	36%	15%	9%
Terrorism	48%	35%	13%	4%
Gay rights	22%	22%	21%	35%
Education	53%	32%	9%	5%
Health care	64%	25%	8%	3%
Social security	58%	30%	8%	5%
The budget deficit	55%	28%	11%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	38%	23%	9%
Taxes	57%	31%	8%	4%
Medicare	53%	29%	13%	5%
Abortion	36%	29%	19%	17%

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

The economy	35%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	5%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	8%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%
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	26%	22%	13%	32%	7%
John Boehner	6%	16%	20%	29%	29%
Mitch McConnell	3%	16%	17%	23%	41%
Harry Reid	6%	15%	13%	29%	36%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	21%	12%	34%	24%
Joe Biden	20%	24%	10%	30%	15%
Hillary Clinton	31%	21%	14%	24%	9%
John Kerry	14%	28%	15%	21%	21%
Wayne LaPierre	6%	10%	8%	21%	55%

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

Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	29%
Somewhat disapprove	15%
Strongly disapprove	31%
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	15%	22%	16%	33%	14%
Immigration	15%	22%	13%	32%	18%
The environment	10%	27%	15%	25%	24%
Terrorism	18%	26%	15%	25%	16%
Gay rights	19%	19%	10%	29%	24%
Education	14%	27%	15%	24%	20%
Health care	19%	20%	11%	38%	12%
Social security	10%	21%	20%	30%	19%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	28%	16%	23%	17%
The budget deficit	12%	19%	18%	35%	15%
Taxes	14%	21%	16%	33%	15%
Medicare	10%	21%	19%	31%	19%
Abortion	15%	19%	12%	27%	28%

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	17%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	12%

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

Very liberal	9%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	28%
Very conservative	7%
Not sure	8%

31. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	0%
Not sure	14%

32. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	49%
Not sure	13%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	35%	39%	26%
Bold	32%	55%	13%
Effective	22%	48%	30%
Exciting	15%	64%	21%
Experienced	23%	50%	27%
Honest	28%	40%	33%
Hypocritical	32%	45%	23%
Inspiring	30%	48%	22%
Intelligent	56%	32%	12%
Partisan	26%	59%	15%
Patriotic	33%	43%	24%
Religious	19%	55%	26%
Sincere	30%	41%	30%
Steady	26%	57%	16%
Strong	30%	51%	19%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	35%
Lower	21%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	31%
Not sure	6%

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

Owned by you or your family	63%
Rented from someone else	34%
Other	3%

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

Will increase a lot	4%
Will increase a little	30%
Will stay about the same	33%
Will decrease a little	11%
Will decrease a lot	3%
Not sure	19%

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

Yes	26%
No	74%

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

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	22%
Not worried	38%
Don't have mortgage payments	32%

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

Will definitely buy a home	3%
Am considering buying a home	13%
Not looking for a home now	84%

43. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

Full-time student	20%
Part-time student	2%
Not a student	78%

44. Do you have a job outside of school?

Full-time job	28%
Part-time job	43%
No job outside of school	30%

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

Full-time employed	41%
Part-time employed	12%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	9%
Retired	17%
Permanently disabled	8%
Homemaker	11%
Other	1%

46. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	22%
No	78%

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

Mean 19

48. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried 11%
Somewhat worried 30%
Not very worried 60%

49. 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.
..... 38%
Not very hard 19%
Not sure 8%

50. Gender

Male 48%
Female 52%

51. Education

No high school 6%
High school graduate 35%
Some college 26%
2-year college 8%
4-year college 17%
Post-graduate 8%

52. How large a role religion plays in life

Very important	40%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too important	13%
Not at all important	19%

53. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	14%

54. Race

White	65%
Black	14%
Hispanic	11%
Other	9%

55. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	23%
South	38%
West	21%

56. Catholics and non-Catholics

Non-Catholics	81%
Catholics	19%

57. Party Identification

Democrat	38%
Lean Democrat	7%
Independent	24%
Lean Republican	7%
Republican	24%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	April 20-22, 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 0.1 to 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.19.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	14 questions not reported.