

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 10-12, 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	47%
Some of the time	33%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	28%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	13%

3. Edward Snowden, a former NSA contractor, made the news recently for leaking information of government surveillance on Americans, including monitoring internet usage and telephone records, to the press. What is your opinion on Snowden, if any?

Very favorable	15%
Somewhat favorable	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	26%
Not sure	21%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of Snowden's decision to leak information about U.S. surveillance activities?

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	18%

5. Would you support or oppose the prosecution of Edward Snowden for leaking the information?

I would support prosecution	35%
I neither support nor oppose	22%
I would oppose his prosecution	29%
Not sure	15%

6. Do you support or oppose Russia granting Snowden temporary asylum?

Strongly support	12%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	23%

7. Do you agree or disagree that leaking classified information is patriotic if it exposes government wrong doing?

Strongly agree	27%
Somewhat agree	28%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	11%
Not sure	21%

8. Do you approve of the way President Obama has handled the Snowden situation?

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	29%
Not sure	29%

9. How important is it to the United States to maintain friendly relations with Russia: very important, somewhat important, only a little important, or not important at all?

Very important	32%
Somewhat important	44%
Not very important	8%
Not important at all	3%
Not sure	13%

10. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama’s decision to cancel holding one-on-one meetings with Vladimir Putin, when the President attends the G-20 summit in Russia this September?

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	19%
Not sure	24%

11. Do you consider Russia to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

Ally of U.S.	4%
Friendly	24%
Unfriendly	42%
Enemy of the U.S.	8%
Not sure	21%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling foreign policy with Russia?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	22%
Not sure	25%

13. Which of these best describes the current federal budget?

The government takes in more money than it spends	9%
The government takes in as much money as it spends	9%
The government takes in less money than it spends	68%
Not sure	14%

14. Which of these best describes the federal budget during the last year of the Clinton Administration in 2000?

The government took in more money than it spent	38%
The government took in as much money as it spent	18%
The government took in less money than it spent	16%
Not sure	29%

15. Which of these best describes the federal budget during the last year of the Bush Administration in 2008?

The government took in more money than it spent	9%
The government took in as much money as it spent	12%
The government took in less money than it spent	59%
Not sure	20%

16. Was the gap between the amount of money the federal government took in and the amount of money it spent in 2012 larger or smaller than the gap in 2011?

The gap was larger in 2012	39%
The gap was smaller in 2012	24%
Not sure	36%

17. Which is larger, the federal budget deficit or the federal debt?

The federal budget deficit	12%
The federal debt	61%
Not sure	27%

18. Do you think the budget disagreement between President Obama and the Republicans in Congress will lead to a shutdown of the federal government, or do you think they will reach an agreement in time to avoid a shutdown?

Government will shutdown	23%
Both sides will agree to a deal	47%
Not sure	31%

19. Do you think the disagreement between President Obama and the Republicans in Congress over funding Obamacare will lead to a shutdown of the federal government, or do you think they will reach an agreement in time to avoid a shutdown?

Government will shutdown	24%
Both sides will agree to a deal	43%
Not sure	33%

20. If President Obama and the Republicans in Congress do not reach a budget agreement in time to avoid a shutdown of the federal government, who do you think will more to blame—President Obama or the Republican Congress?

President Obama	28%
Republicans in Congress	36%
Both	26%
Neither	0%
Not sure	10%

21. Do you agree or disagree that judges should be required to impose mandatory minimum sentences on people convicted of certain crimes?

Strongly agree	27%
Somewhat agree	29%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	9%
Not sure	20%

22. Do you think mandatory minimum sentences are effective or ineffective in preventing people from committing those crimes?

Very effective	8%
Somewhat effective	31%
Somewhat ineffective	24%
Very ineffective	16%
Not sure	21%

23. Have you ever purchased a state lottery ticket?

Yes	69%
No	31%

24. How often do you buy lottery tickets?

A couple times a week	11%
once a week	7%
once a month	17%
only when the jackpot is really big	64%

25. How big does the jackpot have to be for you to purchase a ticket?

Mean	57,943,234
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26. If you won a large lottery jackpot, how do you think it would affect your life?

It would solve all your problems	20%
It would make your life a good deal better than now	56%
It would make your life a little better	20%
It would make your life a little worse	1%
It would make your life a lot worse	0%
It would not have much impact?	4%

27. Can money buy happiness?

Yes	33%
No	67%

28. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	19%	2%	1%
Immigration	41%	33%	19%	8%
The environment	40%	34%	16%	10%
Terrorism	47%	34%	13%	6%
Gay rights	17%	23%	19%	41%
Education	53%	33%	9%	5%
Health care	64%	25%	7%	3%
Social security	57%	32%	10%	2%
The budget deficit	52%	32%	11%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	41%	22%	10%
Taxes	58%	33%	8%	2%
Medicare	49%	33%	14%	4%
Abortion	32%	32%	19%	18%

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

The economy	33%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	1%
Education	8%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	4%

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

The economy	22%
Immigration	3%
The environment	10%
Terrorism	0%
Gay rights	0%
Education	3%
Health care	15%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	12%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	11%
Medicare	0%
Abortion	13%

31. 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	27%	21%	10%	37%	5%
John Boehner	4%	19%	20%	31%	26%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	16%	27%	37%
Harry Reid	5%	18%	13%	34%	30%
Nancy Pelosi	8%	22%	11%	40%	18%
Joe Biden	18%	19%	14%	35%	14%
Hillary Clinton	31%	20%	12%	30%	7%

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

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	6%

33. 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%	40%	11%
Immigration	11%	23%	14%	37%	15%
The environment	10%	29%	16%	26%	20%
Terrorism	18%	25%	13%	29%	16%
Gay rights	19%	21%	7%	31%	22%
Education	14%	29%	16%	23%	18%
Health care	19%	20%	10%	39%	12%
Social security	12%	21%	17%	31%	19%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	27%	16%	25%	17%
The budget deficit	12%	21%	12%	40%	14%
Taxes	13%	21%	14%	37%	15%
Medicare	13%	23%	16%	30%	17%
Abortion	13%	19%	11%	32%	26%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	8%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	30%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	5%

36. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	40%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	11%

37. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	31%
Not sure	9%

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

Getting better	27%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	24%
About the same	31%
Lower	22%
Not sure	24%

41. 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	50%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	29%
Not sure	3%

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

Owned by you or your family	63%
Rented from someone else	35%
Other	2%

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

Increased	24%
Stayed about the same	38%
Decreased	28%
Not sure	9%

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

Increased	35%
Stayed about the same	38%
Decreased	5%
Not sure	22%

45. 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	35%
Will stay about the same	28%
Will decrease a little	11%
Will decrease a lot	1%
Not sure	19%

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

Very worried	6%
Somewhat worried	24%
Not worried	33%
Don't have mortgage payments	37%

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

Will definitely buy a home	3%
Am considering buying a home	10%
Not looking for a home now	87%

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

Yes	26%
No	74%

49. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	75%
No	23%
Don't know	2%

50. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

Full-time student	2%
Part-time student	2%
Not a student	95%

51. Do you have a job outside of school?

Full-time job	8%
Part-time job	69%
No job outside of school	24%

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

Full-time employed	39%
Part-time employed	15%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	9%
Retired	18%
Permanently disabled	9%
Homemaker	9%
Other	1%

53. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	16%
No	84%

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

Mean 18

55. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried 10%
Somewhat worried 33%
Not very worried 58%

56. 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. 37%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.
..... 39%
Not very hard 17%
Not sure 7%

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

More jobs 22%
The same amount of jobs 40%
Fewer jobs 26%
Not sure 11%

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

Very happy 16%
Happy 36%
Neither happy nor unhappy 34%
Unhappy 9%
Very unhappy 5%

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

Higher	20%
Same	65%
Lower	16%

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

I don't have any savings	32%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	22%
I could last a few months on my savings	28%
I could last a year on my savings	7%
I could last more than a year on my savings	11%

61. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

62. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	26%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	9%

63. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	31%
45-64	31%
65+	14%

64. Race

White	68%
Black	14%
Hispanic	11%
Other	6%

65. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	22%
South	39%
West	20%

66. Party Identification

Democrat	39%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	15%
Lean Republican	11%
Republican	26%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 10-12, 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 7.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.2.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.