

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted September 7-9, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.6\%$

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	48%
Some of the time	29%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	17%

3. Do you think President Barack Obama is doing enough to create new jobs for Americans or should he do more?

Doing enough	19%
Should do more	65%
Not sure	16%

4. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous good times during THE NEXT FIVE YEARS or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression, or what?

Good times	4%
Mostly good times	13%
Mixture	48%
Mostly bad times	13%
Bad times	12%
Not sure	10%

5. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely, that in the country as a whole unemployment rates will continue to **decrease** during THE NEXT TWO YEARS or so, or that unemployment rates will start to **increase** again, or what?

Unemployment rates will decrease and two years from now will be <u>a lot lower</u> than they are today	9%
Unemployment rates will go up and down, and two years from now will be <u>somewhat lower</u> than they are today	19%
Unemployment rates will go up and down, but two years from now will be <u>about the same</u> as they are today	22%
Unemployment rates will go up and down, and two years from now will be <u>somewhat higher</u> than they are today	17%
Unemployment rates will increase and two years from now will be <u>a lot higher</u> than they are today	21%
Not sure	11%

6. How much have you read or heard about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya last September that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya?

Heard a lot	46%
Heard a little	37%
Heard nothing at all	9%
Not sure	8%

7. Based on what you know, which of the following is closer to your opinion on information released to the public about the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya?

The Obama Administration deliberately misled the American people	45%
The Obama Administration shared facts as they became available	31%
Not sure	24%

8. How confident are you that the Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of State are taking the right steps to prevent future attacks like the one on the U.S. Consulate in Libya?

Very confident	15%
Somewhat confident	25%
Not very confident	16%
Not at all confident	29%
Not sure	16%

9. In your opinion, has the United States recovered from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, DC?

Has recovered	34%
Has yet to recover	27%
Will never recover	24%
Not sure	15%

10. In your opinion, do the American people currently focus too much or too little on the memory of the events of September 11, 2001?

Too much	15%
About the right amount	53%
Too little	20%
Not sure	13%

11. Since September 11, 2001, the United States has fought against the threat of terrorism through military operations abroad and increased security and surveillance inside of the United States. Do you think these actions have been worth the cost?

Worth cost	38%
Not worth cost	34%
Not sure	28%

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

Much more safe	8%
Somewhat more safe	32%
About the same	32%
Somewhat less safe	9%
Much less safe	9%
Not sure	10%

13. 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%)	15%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	37%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	26%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	7%
Not sure	16%

14. Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, there is more security and surveillance in public places, especially at airports and large public events. Some people say that these measures go too far and restrict our basic civil liberties. Are these increased public security and surveillance measures...

Going too far	32%
Just about right	41%
Not going far enough	14%
Not sure	13%

15. The National Security Agency has been collecting information about telephone records — length of calls and the numbers called — in order to reduce the threat of terrorism. Do you approve or disapprove of their doing this?

Approve strongly	11%
Approve somewhat	27%
Disapprove somewhat	22%
Disapprove strongly	29%
Not sure	11%

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

More safe	32%
No effect	21%
Less safe	28%
Not sure	18%

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

More safe	26%
No effect	22%
Less safe	33%
Not sure	19%

18. Which comes closer to your view?

In the long run, the United States will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism.	39%
In the long run, the United States will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs.	61%

19. How much have you heard about the use of chemical weapons in the fighting between government forces and rebels in Syria?

Heard a lot	54%
Heard a little	37%
Heard nothing at all	9%

20. Should the U.S. engage in military action to punish the Syrian government for using chemical weapons or should it stay out of the conflict?

Punish the Syrian government	20%
Stay out	58%
Not sure	23%

21. How should the international community respond to events in Syria? Please check all options that you support.

Enforce sanctions	50%
Send humanitarian aid	44%
Evacuate refugees	35%
Send in ground forces	6%
Impose a "no-fly zone" over Syria	32%
Conduct airstrikes against Syrian government targets	18%
None of these	25%

22. Do you consider the use of chemical weapons to be a war crime?

Yes	75%
No	8%
Not sure	17%

23. From what you know, do you think either side has used chemical weapons?

	Definitely <u>has</u> used chemical weapons	Probably <u>has</u> used chemical weapons	Probably <u>has not</u> used chemical weapons	Definitely <u>has not</u> used chemical weapons	Not sure
The Syrian government	36%	31%	4%	2%	27%
Rebels fighting the government	11%	24%	23%	4%	39%

24. From what you know, do you think either side has committed war crimes?

	Definitely <u>has</u> committed war crimes	Probably <u>has</u> committed war crimes	Probably <u>has not</u> committed war crimes	Definitely <u>has not</u> committed war crimes	Not sure
The Syrian government	40%	29%	5%	5%	22%
Rebels fighting the government	22%	31%	12%	5%	30%

25. Which side has committed the most war crimes in the civil war in Syria?

Syrian government	44%
Syrian rebels	11%
Not sure	45%

26. Which side would you like to see win in the civil war in Syria?

Syrian government	11%
Syrian rebels	26%
Not sure	63%

27. How much have you heard about President Obama seeking congressional approval for the use of military force against Syria?

Heard a lot	52%
Heard a little	36%
Heard nothing at all	11%

28. Do you support or oppose the use of military force against Syria?

Strongly support	5%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	43%
Not sure	16%

29. When considering the President's authority to use military force, which statement do you agree with most?

The President must always get Congressional approval prior to the use of force	38%
The President should get Congressional approval when possible, but should not be required to get approval in emergencies	41%
The President, as Commander in Chief, needs broad authority with regard to foreign policy, and therefore should not need approval from Congress	8%
Not sure	13%

30. How important are your Representative's and Senators' votes on approving the use of military force in Syria to deciding for whom you will vote in the 2014 election?

The most important factor	8%
One important factor among many	50%
A minor factor, but other issues are more important	19%
Not at all	8%
Not sure	15%

31. Will President Obama order military action against the government of Syria?

Yes	46%
No	12%
Not sure	42%

32. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the situation in Syria?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	36%
No opinion	17%

33. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	20%	3%	2%
Immigration	39%	37%	17%	7%
The environment	40%	33%	14%	13%
Terrorism	44%	35%	14%	7%
Gay rights	18%	23%	23%	36%
Education	50%	34%	10%	6%
Health care	63%	26%	8%	4%
Social security	55%	32%	9%	4%
The budget deficit	53%	32%	10%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	24%	41%	25%	11%
Taxes	57%	32%	8%	4%
Medicare	49%	32%	13%	6%
Abortion	32%	31%	20%	17%

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

The economy	38%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	2%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	6%

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

The economy	52%
Immigration	1%
The environment	0%
Terrorism	0%
Gay rights	0%
Education	3%
Health care	5%
Social security	2%
The budget deficit	17%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	0%
Medicare	6%
Abortion	13%

36. 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	21%	22%	11%	40%	6%
John Boehner	2%	19%	23%	34%	23%
Mitch McConnell	3%	15%	20%	27%	35%
Harry Reid	6%	18%	12%	35%	30%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	18%	12%	42%	17%
Joe Biden	18%	23%	14%	33%	13%
Hillary Clinton	27%	23%	11%	31%	8%

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

Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	7%

38. 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%	23%	14%	39%	12%
Immigration	13%	24%	13%	34%	15%
The environment	12%	24%	19%	24%	20%
Terrorism	16%	24%	20%	27%	13%
Gay rights	19%	19%	11%	29%	21%
Education	14%	27%	17%	27%	15%
Health care	20%	17%	9%	43%	11%
Social security	12%	20%	18%	30%	19%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	24%	19%	24%	17%
The budget deficit	15%	17%	14%	40%	14%
Taxes	12%	24%	13%	36%	15%
Medicare	14%	19%	16%	33%	18%
Abortion	14%	18%	13%	29%	25%

39. 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	21%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	8%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	8%

41. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	38%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	11%

42. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	35%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	50%
Not sure	14%

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	24%
Dislike	33%
Not sure	12%

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

Getting better	22%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	29%
Not sure	9%

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

Higher	19%
About the same	36%
Lower	19%
Not sure	26%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	34%
Not sure	8%

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

Owned by you or your family	65%
Rented from someone else	33%
Other	2%

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

Increased	22%
Stayed about the same	44%
Decreased	24%
Not sure	10%

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

Increased	34%
Stayed about the same	41%
Decreased	9%
Not sure	16%

50. 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	32%
Will stay about the same	33%
Will decrease a little	8%
Will decrease a lot	4%
Not sure	19%

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

Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	25%
Not worried	28%
Don't have mortgage payments	38%

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

Will definitely buy a home	2%
Am considering buying a home	11%
Not looking for a home now	87%

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

Yes	24%
No	76%

54. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	70%
No	25%
Don't know	5%

55. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

Full-time student	22%
Part-time student	4%
Not a student	74%

56. Do you have a job outside of school?

Full-time job	5%
Part-time job	45%
No job outside of school	49%

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

Full-time employed	42%
Part-time employed	10%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	12%
Retired	17%
Permanently disabled	8%
Homemaker	10%
Other	1%

58. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	17%
No	83%

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

Mean 17

60. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried 12%
Somewhat worried 36%
Not very worried 53%

61. 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. 36%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.
..... 42%
Not very hard 13%
Not sure 9%

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

More jobs 18%
The same amount of jobs 44%
Fewer jobs 28%
Not sure 10%

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

Very happy 17%
Happy 36%
Neither happy nor unhappy 32%
Unhappy 10%
Very unhappy 6%

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

Higher	15%
Same	67%
Lower	17%

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

I don't have any savings	31%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	18%
I could last a few months on my savings	29%
I could last a year on my savings	11%
I could last more than a year on my savings	10%

66. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

67. Education

No high school	8%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	27%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

68. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	29%
45-64	31%
65+	14%

69. Race

White	65%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Other	9%

70. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	23%
South	39%
West	21%

71. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	16%
Lean Republican	12%
Republican	24%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 7-9, 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 7.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.11.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.