

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted June 16-18, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4.3%

1. How closely have you been following news about the 2012 presidential election campaign?

Very closely	33%
Somewhat closely	33%
Not too closely	24%
Not at all	11%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	16%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	82%	14%	3%	1%
Immigration	39%	36%	19%	6%
The environment	36%	40%	14%	10%
Terrorism	45%	34%	15%	5%
Gay rights	22%	20%	23%	34%
Education	55%	32%	10%	3%
Health care	68%	23%	6%	3%
Social security	61%	27%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	27%	11%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	39%	21%	6%
Taxes	61%	29%	8%	2%
Medicare	53%	33%	12%	3%
Abortion	33%	25%	24%	18%

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

The economy	39%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	1%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	2%
Abortion	4%

5. Do you think the economies of the following countries are....

	Very strong	Somewhat strong	Neither strong nor weak	Somewhat weak	Very weak	Don't know
China	24%	37%	16%	5%	2%	16%
Spain	2%	8%	16%	17%	36%	21%
Germany	16%	31%	22%	9%	4%	18%
Canada	13%	37%	27%	4%	1%	18%
Greece	1%	5%	9%	13%	55%	17%
Mexico	1%	8%	24%	25%	21%	20%
Great Britain	6%	24%	30%	20%	3%	17%

6. How much have you heard or read about the European debt crisis?

A lot	30%
A little	49%
Nothing at all	21%

7. How much do you think the European debt crisis is affecting the economic recovery of the U.S.? Is the European crisis affecting the U.S. economy...

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard about the European debt crisis

A lot	30%
Somewhat	49%
Not very much	11%
Not at all	2%
Not sure	8%

8. This week, the Obama administration announced that it would stop deporting illegal immigrants who came to the country as children if they have lived in the U.S. for at least five years, have no criminal history, and graduated from high school or served in the military. Do you support or oppose this policy change?

Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	12%

9. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they go to college

Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	27%
Not sure	12%

10. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military

Strongly support	31%
Somewhat support	27%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	17%
Not sure	11%

11. 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	28%	19%	9%	36%	8%
Mitt Romney	14%	25%	15%	32%	15%
Joe Biden	17%	25%	14%	29%	15%
Hillary Clinton	26%	27%	15%	20%	11%
Marco Rubio	13%	14%	11%	16%	46%
Paul Ryan	13%	15%	10%	19%	43%
Chris Christie	15%	17%	14%	16%	37%

12. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Labor unions	15%	17%	32%	14%	23%
Mormons	7%	11%	54%	15%	13%
Gays and lesbians	15%	11%	38%	13%	22%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	39%
Not Sure	7%

14. 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	14%	21%	14%	39%	12%
Immigration	17%	24%	12%	36%	11%
The environment	12%	26%	13%	27%	21%
Terrorism	22%	29%	9%	24%	16%
Gay rights	20%	17%	10%	36%	17%
Education	16%	24%	13%	28%	18%
Health care	18%	20%	10%	40%	11%
Social security	13%	20%	15%	31%	20%
The budget deficit	11%	19%	14%	42%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	27%	17%	25%	16%
Taxes	15%	21%	15%	35%	14%
Medicare	13%	22%	14%	31%	20%
Abortion	12%	17%	10%	32%	29%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	9%

16. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, who would you vote for?

Asked of registered voters. Respondents who initially answered 'not sure' but indicated they were leaning toward Obama or Romney in a follow-up question are counted as Obama or Romney supporters

Barack Obama	44%
Mitt Romney	44%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

17. Regardless of which candidate you support, who do you think is most likely to win the Presidential election in November?

Asked of registered voters

Obama will definitely win	13%
Obama will probably win	28%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	19%
Romney will probably win	18%
Romney will definitely win	9%
Don't know	12%

18. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

The Democratic Party candidate	38%
The Republican Party candidate	33%
Other	1%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	12%

19. In a press conference last week, President Obama was asked about the state of the economy. How did he describe economic growth in the private sector?

The private sector is doing fine.	47%
The private sector is struggling.	9%
The private sector is mostly the same as it was.	4%
I didn't hear what he said	39%

20. In the past year, do you think that employment in private companies...

Has increased	22%
Has stayed about the same	31%
Has decreased	33%
Don't now	14%

21. In the past year, do you think that employment in local, state, and federal government...

Has increased	23%
Has stayed about the same	28%
Has decreased	34%
Don't know	14%

22. How well do you think Barack Obama understands the current economic situation facing most Americans?

Very well	23%
Somewhat well	21%
Not too well	16%
Not at all well	32%
Not sure	7%

23. How well do you think Mitt Romney understands the current economic situation facing most Americans?

Very well	14%
Somewhat well	24%
Not too well	19%
Not at all well	29%
Not sure	14%

24. How do jobs in private companies and government compare in terms of the following things?

	Jobs in private companies are better	Jobs in government are better	Not sure
Salaries or wages	31%	43%	26%
Retirement benefits	9%	64%	27%
Health insurance	12%	62%	26%
Vacation	15%	53%	32%
Hours worked	15%	55%	30%
Job security	11%	58%	30%

25. Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
If one or two members of a family have migrated to the US, the government should allow other immediate family members to join them.	11%	13%	27%	20%	30%
If someone helps an undocumented migrant, that person should be fined or given jail time.	17%	20%	30%	15%	18%
I would be more likely to help someone if they are from my hometown.	13%	25%	42%	7%	12%
I would be more likely to help someone if they are the same religion as me.	5%	11%	48%	11%	27%
I am more likely to donate to a charity that helps people in the United States than to a charity that helps people in other countries.	33%	23%	28%	8%	8%

26. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?

Yes	13%
No	72%
Not sure	15%

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

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	26%
Very Conservative	8%
Not sure	16%

28. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	19%

29. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	19%
Conservative	32%
Very conservative	17%
Not sure	26%

30. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	33%
Not sure	9%

32. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	22%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	59%
Not sure	19%

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

Like a lot	10%
Like somewhat	33%
Dislike	36%
Not sure	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	40%	33%	27%
Bold	33%	52%	15%
Effective	23%	44%	33%
Exciting	18%	62%	20%
Experienced	20%	47%	32%
Honest	30%	39%	32%
Hypocritical	34%	43%	24%
Inspiring	33%	45%	22%
Intelligent	57%	30%	13%
Partisan	25%	57%	17%
Patriotic	29%	42%	29%
Religious	12%	60%	27%
Sincere	32%	38%	30%
Steady	29%	50%	22%
Strong	30%	49%	21%

35. Which of these words would you use to describe Mitt Romney?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	35%	42%	24%
Bold	17%	67%	16%
Effective	20%	61%	20%
Exciting	5%	63%	32%
Experienced	37%	52%	10%
Honest	19%	52%	29%
Hypocritical	32%	49%	19%
Inspiring	9%	62%	30%
Intelligent	43%	46%	10%
Partisan	23%	66%	11%
Patriotic	31%	61%	8%
Religious	43%	53%	4%
Sincere	18%	54%	28%
Steady	26%	60%	13%
Strong	20%	67%	13%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	34%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	35%
Lower	20%
Not sure	24%

38. 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	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	5%

39. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

40. Education

No high school	13%
High school graduate	30%
Some college	22%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	18%
Post-graduate	9%

41. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	18%

42. Race

White	73%
Black	11%
Hispanic	8%
Other	9%

43. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	23%
South	38%
West	20%

44. Party Identification

Democrat	32%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	22%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	25%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 16-18, 2012
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
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 0.2 to 6.9, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.98.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	30 questions not reported.