

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted April 13-15, 2013  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.1\%$

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	35%
Only now and then	14%
Hardly at all	8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	32%
Off on the wrong track	54%
Not sure	14%

3. Please indicate if you know personally... (Check all that apply)

	Yes, and that person is me	Yes, I know someone like this	No, don't know anyone like this
Someone who committed suicide	0%	44%	56%
Someone who died in Iraq or Afghanistan	0%	10%	90%
Someone who has been arrested	7%	65%	28%
Someone who dropped out of high school	9%	58%	32%
Someone who lives in Hawaii	2%	23%	75%
Someone who is a millionaire	3%	34%	63%
Someone who owns a vacation house	3%	44%	52%
Someone in jail	2%	35%	63%
Someone who owns stock in the stock market	15%	44%	41%
Anyone who is part of a committed gay relationship?	4%	56%	40%
Anyone who doesn't have health care?	20%	50%	31%
Anyone who died in 9/11?	0%	7%	93%
Anyone who lost his or her job in the financial crisis?	7%	51%	42%
Anyone who now has AIDS, has died from AIDS, or has tested positive for HIV?	1%	26%	73%
Anyone who has served in the military?	10%	73%	17%
Anyone who has served in Iraq?	2%	49%	48%
Anyone who has served in Afghanistan?	2%	43%	55%
Anyone who has had an abortion?	5%	50%	45%
Anyone who is part of a married gay couple?	2%	26%	73%
Anyone who is currently unemployed and looking for a job?	16%	56%	28%

**4. Which of the following countries do you consider to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?**

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Iran	1%	5%	23%	51%	20%
Israel	49%	20%	5%	3%	22%
Egypt	4%	21%	31%	10%	34%
Saudi Arabia	11%	25%	22%	11%	30%
Jordan	9%	26%	19%	7%	39%
North Korea	1%	1%	14%	68%	15%
Tunisia	2%	12%	17%	6%	62%
Iraq	3%	14%	34%	26%	24%
South Korea	45%	27%	4%	6%	19%
Libya	2%	9%	34%	20%	36%
China	5%	28%	31%	12%	24%
Cuba	1%	8%	41%	27%	23%

**5. How closely have you followed news about the recent threats made by North Korea leader Kim Jong Un?**

Very closely	27%
Somewhat closely	44%
Not very closely	21%
Not at all	8%

**6. How serious a threat do you think North Korea poses to the following countries?**

	An immediate and serious threat	A somewhat serious threat	A minor threat	Not a threat	Not sure
The United States	17%	30%	28%	14%	11%
South Korea	50%	27%	7%	4%	12%

7. Do you favor or oppose taking military action against North Korea if it continues developing long range missiles?

Favor .....	46%
Oppose .....	18%
Not sure .....	36%

8. Do you view recent threats made by Kim Jong Un more as a serious issue, or as a political stunt?

Serious issue .....	38%
Political stunt .....	40%
Not sure .....	22%

9. In the event of North Korea attacking South Korea, should U.S. military forces come to South Korea's aid, or not?

Yes, they should .....	60%
No, they should not .....	16%
Not sure .....	24%

10. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?

Favor .....	44%
Oppose .....	37%
Unsure .....	18%

11. 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 .....	27%
Somewhat support .....	25%
Somewhat oppose .....	13%
Strongly oppose .....	22%
Not sure .....	14%

12. 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	32%
Somewhat support	28%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	18%
Not sure	13%

13. How serious a problem is immigration in your LOCAL community?

Very serious	13%
Somewhat serious	19%
A minor problem	28%
Not a problem	26%
Not sure	14%

14. Do you personally know anyone who is an illegal immigrant?

Yes	25%
No	57%
Not sure	18%

15. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor	53%
Oppose	29%
Not sure	19%

16. Would you favor a program allowing people from other countries to be guest workers in the U.S. for a temporary period of time, and then be required to return to their home country?

Favor	49%
Oppose	27%
Not sure	24%

**17. What effect have the automatic government spending cuts (the sequester) that went into effect in March had on you and your family?**

A major effect .....	10%
A minor effect .....	29%
No effect .....	40%
Not sure .....	21%

**18. Who do you think is most to blame for the sequester?**

President Obama .....	26%
Republicans in Congress .....	31%
Both are equally to blame .....	28%
Not sure .....	15%

**19. What's more important?**

The right of people to own guns .....	19%
Protecting people from gun violence .....	34%
Both are equally important .....	45%
Not sure .....	2%

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

Very favorable .....	22%
Somewhat favorable .....	19%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	14%
Very unfavorable .....	27%
Not sure .....	18%

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

More strict .....	53%
No change .....	26%
Less strict .....	12%
Not sure .....	9%

22. Do you think the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does or does not allow states to regulate guns?

Does .....	35%
Does not .....	33%
Not sure .....	32%

23. Do you favor or oppose the following gun control measures?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Preventing persons with a history of mental illness from owning guns	81%	7%	12%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	48%	40%	12%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	21%	69%	11%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	56%	31%	13%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	70%	18%	12%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	60%	30%	10%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	44%	45%	12%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	41%	44%	15%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	47%	36%	16%
Having the Centers for Disease Control conduct research on gun violence	41%	37%	22%
Spending \$50 million to hire officers and counselors for schools, and provide emergency planning in schools	43%	32%	25%
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	77%	14%	10%
Stationing armed guards at all schools	38%	41%	21%



**24. Do you or anyone else in your household own a gun?**

I personally own a gun .....	19%
I don't personally but someone in household does .....	16%
No .....	65%

**25. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	74%	21%	3%	2%
Immigration	38%	37%	16%	8%
The environment	44%	34%	13%	10%
Terrorism	44%	34%	14%	8%
Gay rights	24%	21%	24%	31%
Education	57%	29%	10%	5%
Health care	65%	25%	5%	4%
Social security	58%	30%	8%	4%
The budget deficit	52%	29%	13%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	25%	39%	25%	11%
Taxes	56%	33%	8%	3%
Medicare	55%	31%	9%	5%
Abortion	33%	29%	22%	16%

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

The economy	30%
Immigration	5%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	6%

27. 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	31%	21%	10%	32%	5%
John Boehner	7%	18%	17%	28%	30%
Mitch McConnell	5%	15%	14%	23%	43%
Harry Reid	5%	15%	14%	30%	36%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	20%	11%	35%	23%
Joe Biden	21%	25%	11%	30%	13%
Hillary Clinton	30%	28%	12%	21%	9%
John Kerry	14%	28%	16%	22%	20%
Wayne LaPierre	7%	10%	6%	18%	59%
Margaret Thatcher	29%	24%	9%	11%	27%

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

Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	29%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	6%

**29. 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%	26%	13%	37%	9%
Immigration	16%	24%	12%	31%	16%
The environment	14%	27%	15%	25%	19%
Terrorism	23%	23%	14%	25%	15%
Gay rights	22%	21%	11%	28%	18%
Education	17%	27%	14%	24%	17%
Health care	21%	23%	11%	37%	9%
Social security	12%	21%	17%	33%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	27%	17%	24%	16%
The budget deficit	14%	21%	15%	37%	12%
Taxes	16%	23%	14%	33%	13%
Medicare	14%	23%	14%	32%	16%
Abortion	16%	22%	12%	26%	23%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	9%

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

Very liberal .....	11%
Liberal .....	18%
Moderate .....	30%
Conservative .....	27%
Very conservative .....	11%
Not sure .....	3%

**32. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal .....	33%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	6%
Very conservative .....	3%
Not sure .....	11%

**33. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	48%
Not sure .....	9%

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

Like a lot .....	39%
Like somewhat .....	23%
Dislike .....	27%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	33%	31%
Bold	28%	57%	15%
Effective	25%	48%	27%
Exciting	17%	63%	20%
Experienced	26%	48%	26%
Honest	31%	39%	30%
Hypocritical	33%	39%	28%
Inspiring	36%	42%	21%
Intelligent	57%	32%	11%
Partisan	25%	58%	16%
Patriotic	29%	45%	26%
Religious	13%	59%	28%
Sincere	34%	39%	27%
Steady	29%	53%	18%
Strong	34%	50%	16%

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

Getting better	26%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	33%
Lower	18%
Not sure	26%

**38. Would you say that you and your family are...**

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	32%
Not sure .....	5%

**39. Is the place where you live owned or rented?**

Owned by you or your family .....	57%
Rented from someone else .....	41%
Other .....	2%

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

Will increase a lot .....	6%
Will increase a little .....	26%
Will stay about the same .....	33%
Will decrease a little .....	10%
Will decrease a lot .....	4%
Not sure .....	21%

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

Yes .....	24%
No .....	76%

**42. How worried are you about making your mortgage payments?**

Very worried .....	9%
Somewhat worried .....	20%
Not worried .....	34%
Don't have mortgage payments .....	37%

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

Will definitely buy a home .....	1%
Am considering buying a home .....	13%
Not looking for a home now .....	86%

**44. Are you currently enrolled as a student?**

Full-time student .....	10%
Part-time student .....	4%
Not a student .....	86%

**45. Do you have a job outside of school?**

Full-time job .....	5%
Part-time job .....	22%
No job outside of school .....	73%

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

Full-time employed .....	38%
Part-time employed .....	13%
Self-employed .....	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff .....	15%
Retired .....	15%
Permanently disabled .....	9%
Homemaker .....	7%
Other .....	2%

**47. Do you currently have more than one job?**

Yes .....	15%
No .....	85%

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

Mean ..... 19

**49. How worried are you about losing your job?**

Very worried ..... 11%  
 Somewhat worried ..... 31%  
 Not very worried ..... 58%

**50. 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.  
 ..... 30%  
 Not very hard ..... 21%  
 Not sure ..... 12%

**51. Gender**

Male ..... 49%  
 Female ..... 51%

**52. Education**

No high school ..... 12%  
 High school graduate ..... 32%  
 Some college ..... 23%  
 2-year college ..... 10%  
 4-year college ..... 16%  
 Post-graduate ..... 7%



**53. How large a role religion plays in life**

Very important .....	40%
Somewhat important .....	24%
Not too important .....	13%
Not at all important .....	23%

**54. Age**

18-29 .....	26%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	33%
65+ .....	14%

**55. Race**

White .....	66%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	12%
Other .....	8%

**56. Region**

Northeast .....	17%
Midwest .....	21%
South .....	34%
West .....	28%

**57. Catholics and non-Catholics**

Non-Catholics .....	83%
Catholics .....	17%

**58. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	36%
Lean Democrat .....	11%
Independent .....	20%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Republican .....	23%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	April 13-15, 2013
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.88.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	14 questions not reported.