

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted April 6-8, 2013  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.7\%$

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	49%
Some of the time	30%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	31%
Off on the wrong track	54%
Not sure	15%

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%	41%	59%
Someone who died in Iraq or Afghanistan	0%	12%	88%
Someone who has been arrested	5%	68%	27%
Someone who dropped out of high school	8%	59%	33%
Someone who lives in Hawaii	2%	20%	78%
Someone who is a millionaire	3%	37%	60%
Someone who owns a vacation house	3%	48%	48%
Someone in jail	0%	34%	65%
Someone who owns stock in the stock market	19%	41%	41%
Anyone who is part of a committed gay relationship?	3%	53%	44%
Anyone who doesn't have health care?	14%	55%	31%
Anyone who died in 9/11?	0%	11%	89%
Anyone who lost his or her job in the financial crisis?	7%	50%	42%
Anyone who now has AIDS, has died from AIDS, or has tested positive for HIV?	1%	24%	75%
Anyone who has served in the military?	13%	73%	14%
Anyone who has served in Iraq?	2%	48%	50%
Anyone who has served in Afghanistan?	2%	42%	57%
Anyone who has had an abortion?	4%	45%	51%
Anyone who is part of a married gay couple?	1%	24%	75%
Anyone who is currently unemployed and looking for a job?	11%	66%	23%

4. In the last few months, has the unemployment rate increased, decreased or stayed the same?

Increased .....	22%
Stayed about the same .....	41%
Decreased .....	26%
Not sure .....	10%

5. In the next year, do you think unemployment will increase, decrease or remain about the same?

Will increase a lot .....	13%
Will increase a little .....	20%
Will stay about the same .....	26%
Will decrease a little .....	24%
Will decrease a lot .....	6%
Not sure .....	11%

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

More jobs .....	24%
The same amount of jobs .....	32%
Fewer jobs .....	32%
Not sure .....	12%

**7. 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%	3%	26%	50%	20%
Israel	48%	23%	5%	3%	21%
Egypt	5%	24%	32%	9%	31%
Saudi Arabia	11%	28%	24%	8%	29%
Jordan	9%	27%	19%	6%	39%
North Korea	1%	1%	16%	68%	15%
Tunisia	3%	14%	19%	5%	59%
Iraq	2%	15%	36%	23%	24%
South Korea	44%	32%	6%	4%	15%
Libya	2%	10%	32%	20%	35%
China	6%	30%	30%	12%	21%
Cuba	2%	8%	39%	28%	23%

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

Very closely	32%
Somewhat closely	41%
Not very closely	19%
Not at all	8%

**9. 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	16%	33%	30%	11%	10%
South Korea	48%	30%	11%	2%	10%

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

Favor .....	45%
Oppose .....	26%
Not sure .....	30%

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

Serious issue .....	40%
Political stunt .....	39%
Not sure .....	21%

12. 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 .....	58%
No, they should not .....	17%
Not sure .....	25%

13. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Strongly favor .....	32%
Somewhat favor .....	13%
Somewhat oppose .....	13%
Strongly oppose .....	32%
Not sure .....	9%

14. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to same-sex marriage, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted .....	46%
Should only be handled by federal government .....	37%
Not sure .....	17%

15. In 1996, the federal government passed a law that says the government will only recognize marriages between a man and a woman. It was called the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. This law means that married same-sex couples could not receive federal benefits when it comes to taxes or entitlements like Social Security and Medicare. The Supreme Court is now hearing arguments on whether this law is constitutional. Several lower courts have said it is not. Do you think the Supreme Court should uphold DOMA and only recognize heterosexual marriages, or should it overturn the law and let the federal government recognize same-sex marriages, too?

This law should be upheld. ....	37%
This law should be overturned. ....	46%
Not sure .....	17%

16. What would be the impact of legalizing same sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?

Benefit .....	10%
Have no impact .....	61%
Threaten .....	29%

17. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society. ....	57%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society ....	43%

18. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice .....	45%
Homosexuality is not a choice .....	55%

19. Do you think gay marriage will be legal in the entire country thirty years from now?

Yes .....	71%
No .....	29%

20. Which of the following sports do you follow on a regular basis and/or consider yourself to be a fan of? (Please select all that apply)

Basketball .....	26%
Football .....	43%
Golf .....	9%
Baseball .....	25%
Ice Hockey .....	10%
Cycling .....	7%
I do not follow/am not a fan of any of these sports .....	41%

21. How closely have you followed news about the firing of Rutgers basketball coach Mike Rice?

Very closely .....	7%
Somewhat closely .....	28%
Not very closely .....	30%
Not at all .....	35%

22. Do you think the University made the right decision or the wrong decision in firing Rice?

Right decision .....	51%
Wrong decision .....	7%
Not sure .....	43%

23. Do you think the University should have taken action sooner than it did, or not?

*Asked of respondents who agreed with decision to fire Mike Rice*

Action should have been taken sooner .....	0%
No, this action was carried out appropriately .....	53%
Not sure .....	47%

**24. How much responsibility for coaches' behavior do the following people have?**

*Asked of respondents who agreed with decision to fire Mike Rice*

	No responsibility	Little responsibility	A lot of responsibility	Full responsibility
Athletic Director	0%	47%	53%	0%
University President	0%	47%	53%	0%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	74%	22%	3%	2%
Immigration	43%	34%	16%	7%
The environment	44%	37%	10%	9%
Terrorism	48%	31%	13%	9%
Gay rights	25%	26%	21%	28%
Education	60%	28%	8%	3%
Health care	65%	23%	9%	3%
Social security	58%	28%	11%	3%
The budget deficit	54%	27%	15%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	41%	18%	11%
Taxes	59%	28%	9%	4%
Medicare	54%	28%	11%	8%
Abortion	35%	31%	19%	14%



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	32%	18%	10%	33%	6%
John Boehner	4%	18%	18%	32%	28%
Mitch McConnell	4%	15%	17%	25%	39%
Harry Reid	5%	18%	15%	28%	33%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	20%	14%	34%	19%
Joe Biden	25%	21%	12%	29%	13%
Hillary Clinton	38%	19%	12%	23%	9%
John Kerry	13%	27%	16%	22%	21%

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

Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Not sure	6%

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	14%	27%	12%	35%	12%
Immigration	16%	26%	11%	31%	15%
The environment	15%	26%	17%	24%	18%
Terrorism	22%	25%	13%	25%	15%
Gay rights	18%	22%	13%	28%	18%
Education	16%	32%	14%	22%	15%
Health care	20%	24%	11%	34%	12%
Social security	12%	20%	21%	29%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	19%	24%	16%	24%	17%
The budget deficit	14%	23%	15%	35%	13%
Taxes	16%	23%	17%	31%	13%
Medicare	13%	22%	18%	30%	17%
Abortion	15%	22%	11%	26%	25%

29. 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	15%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	8%

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

Very liberal .....	7%
Liberal .....	21%
Moderate .....	36%
Conservative .....	21%
Very conservative .....	9%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Very liberal .....	29%
Liberal .....	24%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	6%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	14%

**32. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	48%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Like a lot .....	39%
Like somewhat .....	24%
Dislike .....	28%
Not sure .....	9%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	33%	39%	28%
Bold	31%	56%	14%
Effective	20%	52%	28%
Exciting	15%	68%	17%
Experienced	23%	53%	24%
Honest	30%	39%	31%
Hypocritical	32%	40%	27%
Inspiring	37%	43%	20%
Intelligent	57%	32%	11%
Partisan	24%	61%	15%
Patriotic	27%	48%	25%
Religious	16%	59%	25%
Sincere	29%	44%	26%
Steady	27%	58%	15%
Strong	32%	51%	17%

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

Getting better	26%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	34%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	38%
Lower	21%
Not sure	20%

**37. 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 .....	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	31%
Not sure .....	5%

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

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

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

Increased .....	21%
Stayed about the same .....	41%
Decreased .....	27%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Increased .....	24%
Stayed about the same .....	46%
Decreased .....	16%
Not sure .....	14%

**41. 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 .....	31%
Will stay about the same .....	33%
Will decrease a little .....	10%
Will decrease a lot .....	6%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Yes .....	26%
No .....	74%

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

Very worried .....	9%
Somewhat worried .....	27%
Not worried .....	30%
Don't have mortgage payments .....	34%

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

Will definitely buy a home .....	2%
Am considering buying a home .....	15%
Not looking for a home now .....	82%

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

Full-time student .....	25%
Part-time student .....	0%
Not a student .....	75%

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

Full-time employed .....	39%
Part-time employed .....	10%
Self-employed .....	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff .....	10%
Retired .....	19%
Permanently disabled .....	8%
Homemaker .....	12%
Other .....	2%

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

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

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

Very worried ..... 9%  
 Somewhat worried ..... 30%  
 Not very worried ..... 61%

**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. .... 36%  
 Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.  
 ..... 35%  
 Not very hard ..... 18%  
 Not sure ..... 11%

**50. Gender**

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

**51. Education**

No high school ..... 8%  
 High school graduate ..... 35%  
 Some college ..... 24%  
 2-year college ..... 10%  
 4-year college ..... 13%  
 Post-graduate ..... 11%

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

Very important .....	40%
Somewhat important .....	24%
Not too important .....	12%
Not at all important .....	24%

**53. What is your present religion, if any?**

Protestant .....	37%
Roman Catholic .....	17%
Mormon .....	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox .....	1%
Jewish .....	2%
Muslim .....	1%
Buddhist .....	1%
Hindu .....	0%
Atheist .....	6%
Agnostic .....	6%
Nothing in particular .....	23%
Something else .....	5%

**54. Age**

18-29 .....	28%
30-44 .....	23%
45-64 .....	32%
65+ .....	17%

**55. Race**

White .....	67%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	12%
Other .....	7%



**56. Region**

Northeast .....	16%
Midwest .....	22%
South .....	38%
West .....	24%

**57. Catholics and non-Catholics**

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

**58. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	35%
Lean Democrat .....	12%
Independent .....	24%
Lean Republican .....	8%
Republican .....	21%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	April 6-8, 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 20.4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.16.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.7% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	14 questions not reported.