

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted March 9-11, 2013  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.4\%$

## 1. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	30%
Off on the wrong track	57%
Not sure	13%

## 2. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pope Benedict the Sixteenth?

Very favorable	10%
Somewhat favorable	21%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	13%
Not sure	42%

## 3. Pope Benedict has announced that he is resigning. Overall, do you think Pope Benedict's resignation will help the Church, hurt the church, or will it be a mixed blessing?

Help the church	20%
Hurt the church	6%
Mixed	35%
Not sure	39%

## 4. Some people have discussed the possibility that the next Pope could come from Europe, or from Latin America, or from Africa, or from the United States. Which would you prefer?

Europe	5%
Latin America	5%
Africa	6%
The United States	15%
It doesn't matter	45%
No opinion	24%

**5. How do you think Pope Benedict XVI will go down in history? Do you think he will be remembered as...**

One of the best Popes .....	2%
A very good Pope .....	13%
An average Pope .....	34%
A poor Pope .....	10%
One of the worst Popes .....	6%
Not sure .....	35%

**6. How much do you think it matters what kind of person the next Pope is? Would you label this decision as being...**

Very important .....	39%
Somewhat important .....	26%
Not all that important .....	8%
Of no importance at all .....	9%
Not sure .....	18%

**7. Do you support or oppose Catholic priests being allowed to marry?**

*Asked of Catholic respondents*

Support .....	62%
Oppose .....	21%
Not sure .....	18%

**8. Do you support or oppose women being allowed to become ordained as priests in the Catholic church?**

*Asked of Catholic respondents*

Support .....	53%
Oppose .....	26%
Not sure .....	21%

**9. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing divorce?**

*Asked of Catholic respondents*

Support .....	64%
Oppose .....	17%
Not sure .....	19%

**10. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing gay marriage?**

*Asked of Catholic respondents*

Support .....	42%
Oppose .....	48%
Not sure .....	11%

**11. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing artificial means of birth control?**

*Asked of Catholic respondents*

Support .....	63%
Oppose .....	19%
Not sure .....	18%

**12. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church permitting abortion in some cases?**

*Asked of Catholic respondents*

Support .....	61%
Oppose .....	24%
Not sure .....	15%

**13. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide health care plans that cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?**

Support .....	46%
Oppose .....	38%
Not sure .....	17%

14. Do you think religiously-affiliated hospitals and colleges should be exempt from requirements that their health care plans cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

They should be exempt .....	38%
They should not be exempt .....	41%
Not sure .....	21%

15. If automatic federal spending cuts take place, what effect do you think they would have on you and your family?

A major effect .....	22%
A minor effect .....	31%
No effect .....	21%
Not sure .....	26%

16. If automatic federal spending cuts take place, what effect do you think they would have on members of the military?

A major effect .....	43%
A minor effect .....	27%
No effect .....	8%
Not sure .....	22%

17. Which of the following, if any, should be spared from the automatic federal spending cuts? (choose all that apply)

Federal employees and contractors .....	15%
Members of the military .....	57%
People receiving government assistance .....	34%
None of these .....	14%
Not sure .....	16%

18. 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	30%	19%	9%	37%	5%
John Boehner	5%	22%	21%	26%	26%
Mitch McConnell	5%	19%	19%	19%	38%
Harry Reid	6%	16%	12%	31%	35%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	22%	9%	39%	20%
Joe Biden	19%	22%	11%	36%	12%
Hillary Clinton	30%	24%	14%	25%	8%
John Kerry	12%	25%	18%	26%	19%

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

Strongly Approve	22%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	9%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	5%

20. 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	17%	25%	10%	39%	9%
Immigration	15%	23%	14%	33%	16%
The environment	13%	29%	13%	27%	19%
Terrorism	20%	25%	13%	27%	15%
Gay rights	20%	19%	9%	32%	20%
Education	16%	27%	14%	26%	16%
Health care	20%	22%	9%	38%	11%
Social security	14%	23%	15%	31%	16%
The war in Afghanistan	19%	25%	15%	25%	15%
The budget deficit	14%	21%	12%	42%	11%
Taxes	16%	21%	12%	38%	13%
Medicare	14%	24%	15%	29%	18%
Abortion	16%	20%	10%	30%	25%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	9%

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

Very liberal .....	6%
Liberal .....	17%
Moderate .....	33%
Conservative .....	29%
Very Conservative .....	9%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Very liberal .....	39%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	21%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Owned by you or your family .....	61%
Rented from someone else .....	37%
Other .....	2%

**25. 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 .....	29%
Will stay about the same .....	33%
Will decrease a little .....	11%
Will decrease a lot .....	5%
Not sure .....	18%

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

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

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

Very worried ..... 8%  
Somewhat worried ..... 24%  
Not worried ..... 32%  
Don't have mortgage payments ..... 36%

**28. 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%

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

Full-time student ..... 8%  
Part-time student ..... 7%  
Not a student ..... 85%

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

Full-time job ..... 48%  
Part-time job ..... 10%  
No job outside of school ..... 42%



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

Full-time employed .....	44%
Part-time employed .....	11%
Self-employed .....	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff .....	11%
Retired .....	16%
Permanently disabled .....	8%
Homemaker .....	9%
Other .....	1%

**32. 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. ....	38%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. .....	32%
Not very hard .....	23%
Not sure .....	8%

**33. Gender**

Male .....	50%
Female .....	50%

**34. Education**

No high school .....	9%
High school graduate .....	33%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	11%
4-year college .....	15%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**35. How important is religion in your life?**

Very important .....	40%
Somewhat important .....	29%
Not too important .....	13%
Not at all important .....	19%

**36. Age**

18-29 .....	25%
30-44 .....	26%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	15%

**37. Race**

White .....	67%
Black .....	14%
Hispanic .....	11%
Other .....	9%

**38. Region**

Northeast .....	17%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	36%
West .....	24%

**39. Highest level of education attained**

HS .....	42%
Some college .....	34%
College grad .....	24%

40. Party Identification

Democrat .....	38%
Lean Democrat .....	8%
Independent .....	15%
Lean Republican .....	12%
Republican .....	28%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	March 9-11, 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 0.1 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	34 questions not reported.