

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 14-16, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.2\%$

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	47%
Some of the time	30%
Only now and then	14%
Hardly at all	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	15%

3. How closely have you been following the news about the federal budget agreement reached in Congress this week?

Very closely	19%
Somewhat closely	37%
Not very closely	30%
Not following at all	14%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the current budget deal under consideration in Congress this weekend?

Approve strongly	4%
Approve somewhat	28%
Disapprove somewhat	19%
Disapprove strongly	15%
Not sure	34%

5. If you had to choose, would you rather have a member of Congress who...

- Compromises to get things done. 63%
- Sticks to their principles, no matter what. 37%

6. Which statement comes closest to your opinion about the federal budget compromise Congress is considering this weekend?

- The benefits of the budget compromise outweigh the costs 16%
- The costs and benefits of the compromise are about the same 22%
- The costs of the compromise outweigh the benefits 26%
- Not sure 36%

7. Do you think one political party got more out of the budget compromise than the other, or do you think it was about the same for each party?

- Democrats got more than Republicans 22%
- Both sides came out about the same 31%
- Republicans got more than Democrats 12%
- Not sure 35%

8. Do you think this was the best deal possible or do you think it was possible to negotiate a better deal?

- Best deal possible 16%
- Better deal possible 47%
- Not sure 37%

9. Which statement comes closest to your opinion about the budget agreement?

Democrats got too much	8%
Democrats gave up too much	10%
Republicans got too much	10%
Republicans gave up too much	11%
Both sides gave up too much	3%
Neither side gave up enough	26%
Not sure	32%

10. If the election were being held today, would you vote to re-elect the member of Congress who represents your district?

Yes	30%
No	41%
Not sure	30%

11. To the best of your knowledge, is your current member of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress a Democrat or a Republican?

Democrat	39%
Republican	40%
Not sure	21%

12. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does at this point in its two-year term?

More than usual	4%
About the same	22%
Less than usual	63%
Not sure	12%

13. Who is more to blame for Congress accomplishing less than it usually does in a year?

Asked if respondent says Congress accomplished less than usual

Republicans in Congress	41%
Democrats in Congress	19%
Both equally	37%
Neither	1%
Not sure	1%

14. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

Very concerned	44%
Somewhat concerned	34%
Not very concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	5%

15. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately	38%
Next year	9%
In a few years	26%
Not necessary to balance the budget	12%
Not sure	15%

16. Would you support or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution that requires Congress to balance its budget every year and requires a three-fifths majority of both the House and Senate to raise the federal debt limit?

Strongly support	31%
Somewhat support	21%
Neither support, nor oppose	14%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	13%
Not sure	12%

17. Did you vote in your state's Presidential primary or caucus in 2012?

Yes 78%
No 17%
I don't remember 6%

18. Did you vote in your state's \$RLI_OR Presidential primary or caucus in 2012?

Asked of those who voted in a 2012 Presidential primary

Democratic 48%
Republican 52%

19. Do you plan to vote in your state's Presidential primary or caucus in 2016?

Yes 84%
No 12%
I don't remember 4%

20. Do you plan to vote in your state's \$RLI_OR Presidential primary or caucus in 2016?

Asked of those who plan to vote in a 2016 Presidential primary

Democratic 49%
Republican 51%

21. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following potential Republican candidates for President?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Ted Cruz	16%	13%	11%	31%	29%
Chris Christie	11%	25%	23%	18%	23%
Rand Paul	16%	20%	11%	29%	25%
Scott Walker	12%	15%	10%	23%	39%
Marco Rubio	10%	20%	15%	28%	26%
Jeb Bush	9%	24%	19%	27%	21%
Paul Ryan	15%	19%	15%	31%	19%
Mike Huckabee	14%	22%	15%	27%	23%

22. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2016?

Ted Cruz	9%
Chris Christie	21%
Rand Paul	8%
Scott Walker	4%
Marco Rubio	4%
Jeb Bush	6%
Paul Ryan	8%
Mike Huckabee	9%
Other	6%
No preference	25%

23. Do you think President Barack Obama is doing too much, doing the right amount, or doing too little to create new jobs for Americans?

Doing too much	6%
Doing the right amount	22%
Doing too little	60%
Not sure	11%

24. Do you think Republicans in Congress are doing too much, doing the right amount, or doing too little to create new jobs for Americans?

Doing too much	5%
Doing the right amount	14%
Doing too little	67%
Not sure	14%

25. Do you think Democrats in Congress are doing too much, doing the right amount, or doing too little to create new jobs for Americans?

Doing too much	6%
Doing the right amount	17%
Doing too little	63%
Not sure	14%

26. Should the federal government encourage employment through various incentives, laws and regulations or should the federal government not be directly involved?

Federal government should encourage employment	54%
Federal government should not be directly involved	33%
Not sure	13%

27. From all that you know now, has the health care reform law been a complete success, a complete failure, or something in between?

A complete failure	38%
More of a failure than a success	17%
Equal amount of both failure and success	10%
More of a success than a failure	14%
A complete success	2%
Too early to tell	15%
Not sure	3%

28. When will we know for sure whether the health care reform law is a success or failure?

We will never really know	10%
We will know after the law has been in effect for several years	27%
We will know after the law has been in effect for one year	19%
We will know in a few months when we find out how many people have enrolled	15%
We know now even before the law has been put into effect	29%

29. Have you tried to visit the federal health insurance exchange website, healthcare.gov?

Yes	25%
No	74%
Not sure	2%

30. Was your experience at healthcare.gov positive or negative?

Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov

Very positive	18%
Somewhat positive	12%
Neither positive nor negative	19%
Somewhat negative	13%
Very negative	38%
Not sure	1%

31. Which month did you visit healthcare.gov?

October	26%
November	43%
December	26%
Don't remember	5%

32. Do you think the health care reform law should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	23%
Kept the same	14%
Repealed	48%
Not sure	15%

33. Do you have health insurance?

Yes	81%
No	19%

34. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	75%	21%	2%	1%
Immigration	42%	34%	19%	6%
The environment	38%	38%	18%	7%
Terrorism	48%	34%	13%	5%
Gay rights	20%	22%	25%	33%
Education	55%	33%	9%	3%
Health care	59%	30%	9%	2%
Social security	59%	30%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	51%	32%	11%	6%
The war in Afghanistan	27%	42%	23%	8%
Taxes	56%	34%	7%	3%
Medicare	51%	30%	16%	3%
Abortion	33%	32%	21%	14%

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

The economy	35%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	6%
Medicare	5%
Abortion	5%

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	22%	22%	9%	44%	4%
Joe Biden	17%	24%	13%	36%	10%
John Boehner	5%	17%	21%	37%	20%
Mitch McConnell	4%	15%	18%	32%	31%
Harry Reid	8%	19%	14%	37%	22%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	19%	11%	43%	16%
Hillary Clinton	26%	22%	11%	34%	6%

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

Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	3%

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%	22%	14%	44%	8%
Immigration	9%	21%	18%	41%	12%
The environment	12%	25%	15%	30%	18%
Terrorism	16%	26%	17%	29%	12%
Gay rights	16%	23%	11%	31%	19%
Education	14%	25%	15%	30%	16%
Health care	17%	20%	8%	47%	8%
Social security	11%	20%	18%	34%	16%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	23%	20%	32%	13%
The budget deficit	11%	19%	14%	45%	11%
Taxes	10%	24%	14%	38%	13%
Medicare	14%	21%	16%	34%	15%
Abortion	11%	20%	11%	33%	26%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	5%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	49%
Not sure	5%

40. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	11%	22%	21%	39%	7%
Republicans in Congress	6%	18%	26%	43%	6%

41. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the political parties?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	13%	26%	17%	40%	5%
The Republican Party	7%	22%	24%	42%	5%

42. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...

The Democratic Party candidate	37%
The Republican Party candidate	30%
Other	7%
Not sure	24%
I would not vote	2%

43. 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	40%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	5%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	3%

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

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	39%
Conservative	30%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	1%

45. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	42%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	8%

46. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	35%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	57%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	29%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	36%
Not sure	7%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	46%	29%	25%
Bold	29%	55%	16%
Effective	21%	43%	36%
Exciting	14%	62%	24%
Experienced	19%	48%	32%
Honest	25%	34%	42%
Hypocritical	42%	37%	21%
Inspiring	30%	45%	25%
Intelligent	50%	36%	14%
Partisan	29%	57%	14%
Patriotic	24%	43%	32%
Religious	13%	57%	31%
Sincere	28%	38%	34%
Steady	23%	59%	18%
Strong	24%	53%	22%

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

Getting better	22%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	38%
Not sure	3%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	37%
Lower	21%
Not sure	22%

51. 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	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	35%
Not sure	2%

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

Owned by you or your family	66%
Rented from someone else	32%
Other	1%

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

Increased	26%
Stayed about the same	42%
Decreased	27%
Not sure	5%

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

Increased	32%
Stayed about the same	32%
Decreased	16%
Not sure	19%

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

Will increase a lot	4%
Will increase a little	30%
Will stay about the same	34%
Will decrease a little	12%
Will decrease a lot	4%
Not sure	14%

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

Very worried	5%
Somewhat worried	21%
Not worried	38%
Don't have mortgage payments	36%

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

Will definitely buy a home	4%
Am considering buying a home	13%
Not looking for a home now	83%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

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

Full-time employed	43%
Part-time employed	12%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	8%
Retired	19%
Permanently disabled	6%
Homemaker	10%
Other	1%

60. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	17%
No	83%

61. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	11%
Somewhat worried	30%
Not very worried	59%

62. 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.	40%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	35%
Not very hard	17%
Not sure	7%

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

More jobs	20%
The same amount of jobs	39%
Fewer jobs	31%
Not sure	10%

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

Very happy	20%
Happy	39%
Neither happy nor unhappy	28%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	4%

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

Higher	20%
Same	62%
Lower	17%

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

I don't have any savings	36%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	19%
I could last a few months on my savings	25%
I could last a year on my savings	8%
I could last more than a year on my savings	12%

67. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

68. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?
Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	20%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	15%

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

Yes	15%
No	72%
Not Sure	13%

70. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	68%
Black	14%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	2%
Native American	1%
Middle Eastern	0%
Mixed	2%
Other	1%

71. Education

No high school	9%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	28%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	8%

72. What is your marital status?

Married	48%
Separated	2%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	4%
Single	31%
Domestic partnership	6%

73. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	31%
No	69%

74. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	38%
Somewhat important	27%
Not too important	13%
Not at all important	21%

75. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week	10%
Once a week	15%
Once or twice a month	9%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	23%
Never	28%
Don't know	2%

76. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?

Several times a day	30%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	16%
Never	17%
Don't know	2%

77. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	41%
Roman Catholic	17%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	4%
Muslim	0%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	21%
Something else	4%

78. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	28%
45-64	33%
65+	14%

79. Race

White	68%
Black	14%
Hispanic	11%
Other	6%

80. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	22%

81. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	11%
Republican	28%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 14-16, 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 0.2 to 5.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.9.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.