

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted December 22-24, 2012  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.9\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 31%  
Off on the wrong track ..... 53%  
Not sure ..... 16%

## 2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	17%	3%	1%
Immigration	38%	37%	18%	7%
The environment	41%	32%	18%	9%
Terrorism	48%	29%	16%	7%
Gay rights	21%	21%	23%	35%
Education	59%	28%	9%	5%
Health care	67%	22%	8%	2%
Social security	61%	26%	9%	4%
The budget deficit	57%	29%	10%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	37%	22%	10%
Taxes	65%	26%	7%	3%
Medicare	54%	31%	12%	3%
Abortion	31%	32%	22%	15%

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

The economy	35%
Immigration	3%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	9%
Health care	10%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	7%
Medicare	2%
Abortion	3%

4. Unless Congress acts before the end of the year, automatic tax increases and spending cuts will go into effect. How likely is it that Congress and the President will agree on a way to avoid the large spending cuts and tax increases now scheduled for January 1?

Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	22%
Somewhat unlikely	28%
Very unlikely	27%
Not sure	15%

5. How badly do you think the economy will be hurt if Congress and the President do not reach a compromise on tax increases and spending cuts before the end of the year?

Hurt badly	49%
Hurt a little	32%
Not hurt at all	6%
Don't know	14%

**6. Do you understand what the fiscal cliff is?**

Yes, generally .....	46%
Only somewhat, but I understand how it will affect me .....	18%
Only somewhat, and I'm not clear on how it will affect me .....	16%
Not really; I know it's all over the news but couldn't explain it to you .....	21%

**7. Do you favor or oppose doing things now to reduce the federal government's budget deficit?**

Favor .....	60%
Neither favor nor oppose .....	33%
Oppose .....	8%

**8. Which of the following things would you favor or oppose doing to reduce the federal budget deficit?**

*Asked of respondents who indicated they favor doing things now to reduce the deficit*

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Raise taxes on all taxpayers	4%	11%	9%	21%	55%
Raise taxes on families making more than \$250,000 per year	44%	17%	6%	11%	22%
Reduce military spending	27%	21%	14%	15%	23%
Reduce spending on Medicare and Social Security	14%	13%	12%	22%	39%
Reduce spending on other domestic programs	36%	30%	14%	11%	9%

9. How much is each of the following people or groups to blame for the poor economic conditions of the past few years?

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all
President Obama	31%	10%	21%	17%	21%
President Bush	35%	16%	23%	15%	12%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	31%	17%	24%	17%	11%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	35%	20%	24%	13%	8%
Wall Street bankers	37%	21%	24%	10%	8%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	21%	23%	31%	15%	10%

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

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	7%
Not sure	10%

11. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	31%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	7%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	18%

**12. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	44%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Like a lot .....	36%
Like somewhat .....	25%
Dislike .....	29%
Not sure .....	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	33%	37%	31%
Bold	31%	54%	15%
Effective	26%	44%	30%
Exciting	17%	64%	19%
Experienced	25%	48%	27%
Honest	32%	38%	30%
Hypocritical	30%	41%	29%
Inspiring	37%	41%	22%
Intelligent	56%	32%	11%
Partisan	22%	60%	18%
Patriotic	27%	47%	26%
Religious	16%	59%	25%
Sincere	35%	37%	28%
Steady	30%	54%	17%
Strong	34%	49%	17%

15. 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	33%	19%	8%	35%	5%
John Boehner	5%	20%	20%	28%	27%
Mitch McConnell	5%	15%	16%	21%	43%
Harry Reid	6%	16%	12%	29%	36%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	19%	11%	35%	24%

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

Strongly approve	24%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	7%

17. 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	16%	26%	11%	35%	11%
Immigration	15%	22%	15%	28%	20%
The environment	14%	28%	16%	20%	22%
Terrorism	23%	25%	14%	22%	17%
Gay rights	18%	22%	11%	25%	24%
Education	18%	25%	17%	20%	19%
Health care	23%	18%	11%	36%	12%
Social security	16%	24%	18%	26%	17%
The budget deficit	15%	23%	14%	35%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	18%	28%	16%	20%	17%
Taxes	19%	23%	12%	33%	13%
Medicare	16%	24%	17%	26%	17%
Abortion	17%	19%	10%	25%	28%

18. 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	24%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	8%

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

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

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

More strict	52%
No change	30%
Less strict	11%
Not sure	8%

21. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns	14%
Protecting people from gun violence	33%
Both are equally important	49%
Not sure	5%

**22. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?**

Personally own a gun .....	20%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun .	16%
No one in the household owns a gun .....	64%

**23. The NRA recently proposed having an armed guard in every school. Do you approve or disapprove of this idea?**

Strongly approve .....	24%
Somewhat approve .....	23%
Somewhat disapprove .....	13%
Strongly disapprove .....	28%
Not sure .....	11%

**24. Have you ever heard of the Brady Campaign?**

Yes .....	48%
No .....	52%

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

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

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

Getting better .....	24%
About the same .....	33%
Getting worse .....	37%
Not sure .....	7%



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

Higher .....	18%
About the same .....	34%
Lower .....	24%
Not sure .....	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	34%
Not sure .....	5%

**29. Gender**

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

**30. Education**

No high school .....	9%
High school graduate .....	32%
Some college .....	25%
2-year college .....	10%
4-year college .....	15%
Post-graduate .....	8%

**31. Age**

18-29 .....	25%
30-44 .....	28%
45-64 .....	33%
65+ .....	13%

**32. Race**

White .....	67%
Black .....	13%
Hispanic .....	11%
Other .....	9%

**33. Region**

Northeast .....	18%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	36%
West .....	23%

**34. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	35%
Lean Democrat .....	10%
Independent .....	24%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Republican .....	22%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	December 22-24, 2012
<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 0.4 to 4.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.75.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	14 questions not reported.