

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 17-20, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.7\%$

1. Below are some issues facing the country. For each one, indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling that issue.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The war in Iraq	27%	22%	15%	25%	11%
The economy	10%	23%	16%	42%	9%
Immigration	9%	20%	17%	38%	16%
The environment	10%	28%	19%	28%	15%
Terrorism	20%	26%	14%	27%	13%
Gay rights	14%	21%	13%	25%	27%
Education	14%	27%	16%	28%	16%
Health care	18%	21%	14%	39%	8%
Social security	14%	22%	17%	34%	13%
The budget deficit	10%	20%	17%	41%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	27%	19%	28%	13%
Taxes	13%	23%	16%	37%	11%
Medicare	14%	22%	15%	36%	13%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	33%	39%	21%	7%
The economy	81%	15%	3%	1%
Immigration	44%	33%	16%	6%
The environment	42%	38%	15%	6%
Terrorism	49%	32%	12%	6%
Gay rights	22%	23%	27%	27%
Education	56%	32%	10%	3%
Health care	71%	22%	5%	2%
Social security	62%	27%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	28%	10%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	36%	41%	18%	6%
Taxes	64%	29%	5%	2%
Medicare	56%	31%	11%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	39%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	1%
Gay rights	1%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%

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

Strongly Approve	15%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	8%

5. How much of your Christmas shopping have you done?

Completed all of my Christmas shopping	33%
More than three quarters	20%
Roughly half	9%
Less than a quarter	7%
Haven't started yet	8%
Am not doing any Christmas shopping	21%

6. Do you plan to spend more or less on Christmas presents this year than you did last year?

Asked of respondents who are doing Christmas shopping

More	15%
About the same	47%
Less	38%

7. Thinking of the Christmas gifts that you have already purchased or plan to purchase, how much of your shopping will be done online?

Asked of respondents who are doing Christmas shopping

All	5%
More than three quarters	16%
Roughly half	26%
Less than a quarter	24%
None	23%
Not sure	5%

8. Do you personally celebrate Christmas more as a religious holiday or as a non-religious holiday?

Religious	56%
Non-religious	36%
Don't celebrate Christmas	8%

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Success in life is determined by forces outside of our control."

Agree strongly	6%
Agree somewhat	28%
Disagree somewhat	34%
Disagree strongly	23%
Not sure	9%

10. As you probably know, many of the major tax cuts passed by Congress during the Bush administration are due to expire at the end of this year. Would you favor...?

Making these tax cuts permanent	25%
Extending the tax cuts for households earning less than \$250,000 per year but letting the tax cuts expire for households earning more than \$250,000 per year	41%
Letting all the tax cuts expire as scheduled	14%
Don't Know	19%

11. How much have you heard about the Social Security payroll tax cut for workers, which is scheduled to expire on December 31st unless Congress votes to extend it?

A great deal	29%
A little	41%
Nothing at all	31%

12. On January 1, 2012, the payroll tax rate, set at 4.2% for the last year, will revert to 6.2% unless Congress votes to extend it. Members of Congress are considering whether to extend or even expand the payroll tax cut. Do you think the payroll tax rate should be higher or lower than the current 4.2%, or should it be kept at the same rate as it is now?

Higher	11%
Kept the same	51%
Lower	18%
Not sure	20%

13. Some members of Congress have proposed an extension of this year’s payroll tax cut, which has boosted most workers’ take-home pay. They want to offset the cost of continuing this tax cut by imposing a new tax on incomes in excess of \$1 million.

Strongly support	36%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	12%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	15%
Not sure	14%

14. Some members of Congress have proposed an extension of this year’s payroll tax cut, which has boosted most workers’ take-home pay. They want to offset the cost of continuing this tax cut by freezing the pay of federal employees and gradually reducing the federal work force.

Strongly support	26%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	13%
Not sure	13%

15. How closely have you been following news about the 2012 presidential election campaign?

Very closely	31%
Somewhat closely	34%
Not too closely	21%
Not at all	14%

16. In the upcoming primary elections, are you more likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary or caucus, or a Republican primary or caucus, or aren't you likely to vote in a primary or caucus at all?

Asked of registered voters

Democratic primary or caucus	39%
Republican primary or caucus	39%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	21%

17. Are you satisfied with the field of Republicans who have declared their candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination or would you like someone else to enter the race?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Satisfied with current field	49%
Would like someone else to enter	27%
Not sure	24%

18. Have you already decided on the candidate you will vote for in your state's Republican primary or caucus, or are you still undecided?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Have decided on candidate	34%
Have not decided on candidate	66%

19. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Mitt Romney	21%
Newt Gingrich	27%
Michele Bachmann	8%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	13%
Rick Santorum	4%
Rick Perry	5%
Gary Johnson	1%
Other	7%
No preference	8%

20. And which of these individuals would be your SECOND choice to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus. List excludes first choice candidate.

Mitt Romney	21%
Newt Gingrich	12%
Michele Bachmann	15%
Jon Huntsman	5%
Ron Paul	12%
Rick Santorum	11%
Rick Perry	13%
Gary Johnson	0%
Other	3%
No preference	8%

21. Would you consider supporting any of these candidates for the Republican nomination in 2012? Please check all that apply.

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus. List excludes first and second choice candidates.

Mitt Romney	19%
Newt Gingrich	18%
Michele Bachmann	23%
Jon Huntsman	13%
Ron Paul	13%
Rick Santorum	24%
Rick Perry	25%
Gary Johnson	9%
None of these	35%

22. In the 2012 presidential election, would you prefer that Barack Obama or someone else run as the Democratic nominee for president?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Democratic primary or caucus

Barack Obama	76%
Someone else	11%
Not sure	13%

23. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	45%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	38%
Other	7%
Not sure	6%

24. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Newt Gingrich, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Newt Gingrich?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	48%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Newt Gingrich	1%
Newt Gingrich	36%
Other	8%
Not sure	6%

25. Who do you think would win the 2012 presidential election if it were a contest between Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate, and Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate?

Barack Obama	41%
Mitt Romney	35%
Not sure	24%

26. Who do you think would win the 2012 presidential election if it were a contest between Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate, and Newt Gingrich, the Republican candidate?

Barack Obama	48%
Newt Gingrich	31%
Not sure	20%

27. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal	33%
A fair amount	34%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	11%

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

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	19%
No	81%

29. 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	17%
Somewhat support	14%
Neither support, nor oppose	22%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	11%

30. Recently, leaders of the European Union had a summit to discuss measures to solve the debt crisis that is affecting the Eurozone. European leaders agreed to new rules for the Eurozone. Under the new rules, countries in the Eurozone will have to balance their budgets, there will be punishments for countries who run up deficits that are too large, and countries in the Eurozone will have their budgets monitored by the EU. Do you support or oppose these new rules?

Support	44%
Oppose	13%
Don't know	43%

31. Do you think the measures agreed to at the summit will or will not help solve the debt crisis in the Eurozone?

Will help solve the crisis	26%
Will not help solve the crisis	25%
Don't know	49%

32. How much confidence do you have in the following European leaders to make the necessary decisions to solve the crisis in the Eurozone?

	A lot	A little	Not a lot	None at all	Don't know
Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany	20%	22%	12%	8%	38%
Nicholas Sarkozy, the President of France	6%	22%	20%	14%	38%
David Cameron, the Prime Minister of Great Britain	12%	25%	15%	10%	38%

33. Do you think David Cameron was right or wrong to veto the treaty?

Right	30%
Wrong	16%
Don't know	54%

34. Do you think other European Union countries are right or wrong to proceed with an agreement without Britain?

Right	35%
Wrong	14%
Don't know	50%

35. Of the following, who do you think is most to blame for the summit not agreeing a treaty including all 27 countries?

David Cameron	10%
Nicholas Sarkozy	3%
Angela Merkel	2%
They are all equally to blame	38%
Other	2%
Don't know	45%

36. Do you think the outcome of the summit is good or bad for the European Union?

Good for the European Union	15%
Bad for the European Union	13%
Neither	23%
Don't know	49%

37. Do you think Britain should or should not remain a member of the European Union?

Britain should remain a member of the European Union	26%
Britain should leave the European Union	27%
Don't know	47%

38. Whether or not you personally support Britain's membership of the European Union, do you think Britain will or will not be a member of the European Union in ten years time?

Will definitely still be a member	6%
Will probably still be a member	28%
Will probably not be a member	22%
Will definitely not be a member	5%
Don't know	40%

39. Whether or not you personally support the euro currency, do you think the euro will or will not still exist in ten years time?

Will definitely still exist	8%
Will probably still exist	33%
Will probably not exist	22%
Will definitely not exist	6%
Don't know	31%

40. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	31%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

41. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	58%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	29%
Not sure	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	28%	50%	22%
Decisive	21%	50%	29%
Effective	19%	45%	36%
Experienced	16%	45%	39%
Honest	32%	37%	32%
In touch	25%	44%	31%
Inspiring	30%	43%	27%
Intelligent	52%	33%	15%
Partisan	27%	55%	18%
Patriotic	31%	41%	28%
Realistic	28%	42%	31%
Religious	14%	56%	30%
Sincere	33%	38%	29%
Strong	24%	49%	27%
Unifying	14%	49%	37%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	10%

45. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	4%
About the same	26%
Less than usual	53%
Not sure	16%

46. Overall, how would you describe the legislation passed by Congress in the past year?

Very liberal	8%
Somewhat liberal	11%
Moderate	19%
Somewhat conservative	18%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	33%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	20%
Off on the wrong track	65%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	17%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	34%
Lower	24%
Not sure	22%

50. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	7%

51. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...
Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	43%
The Republican Party candidate	38%
Other	3%
Not sure	13%
I would not vote	2%

52. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?
Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	43%
The Republican Party candidate	37%
Other	2%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	2%

53. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

54. Education

No high school	13%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	22%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	9%

55. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	26%
45-64	34%
65+	16%

56. Race

White	73%
Black	12%
Hispanic	9%
Other	7%

57. Region

Northeast	20%
Midwest	23%
South	35%
West	23%

58. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	24%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	25%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 17-20, 2011
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
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 0.5 to 3.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.66.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	28 questions not reported.