

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 15-17, 2012
Margin of Error $\pm 4.9\%$

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	81%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	34%	38%	20%	8%
The environment	42%	37%	13%	7%
Terrorism	46%	35%	14%	5%
Gay rights	23%	22%	21%	34%
Education	57%	32%	7%	3%
Health care	70%	24%	3%	3%
Social security	65%	26%	6%	4%
The budget deficit	60%	29%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	42%	19%	8%
Taxes	61%	31%	7%	2%
Medicare	56%	34%	7%	4%
Abortion	33%	31%	20%	16%

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

The economy	40%
Immigration	2%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	12%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	6%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	4%

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	12%
Somewhat likely	26%
Somewhat unlikely	28%
Very unlikely	18%
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	45%
Hurt a little	32%
Not hurt at all	6%
Don't know	17%

6. Do you favor or oppose doing things now to reduce the federal government’s budget deficit?

Favor	63%
Neither favor nor oppose	31%
Oppose	5%

7. 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%	17%	12%	22%	45%
Raise taxes on families making more than \$250,000 per year	51%	16%	8%	10%	15%
Reduce military spending	27%	22%	12%	17%	23%
Reduce spending on Medicare and Social Security	9%	16%	14%	26%	35%
Reduce spending on other domestic programs	30%	29%	22%	10%	9%

8. 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	27%	8%	19%	26%	20%
President Bush	34%	18%	23%	15%	9%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	25%	19%	28%	19%	9%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	35%	22%	25%	12%	6%
Wall Street bankers	42%	22%	20%	10%	6%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	24%	23%	30%	14%	9%

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

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	24%
Very conservative	7%
Not sure	10%

10. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	30%
Liberal	27%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	12%

11. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	45%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	35%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	29%	39%	32%
Bold	26%	59%	15%
Effective	24%	46%	29%
Exciting	15%	64%	21%
Experienced	23%	46%	31%
Honest	32%	38%	30%
Hypocritical	27%	47%	26%
Inspiring	36%	42%	22%
Intelligent	60%	27%	13%
Partisan	23%	63%	14%
Patriotic	32%	42%	26%
Religious	17%	55%	28%
Sincere	38%	36%	26%
Steady	32%	53%	15%
Strong	34%	48%	18%

14. 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%	23%	9%	30%	8%
John Boehner	5%	17%	20%	28%	30%
Mitch McConnell	3%	15%	14%	24%	44%
Harry Reid	6%	17%	12%	28%	37%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	22%	11%	34%	25%

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

Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	30%
Not sure	7%

16. 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%	28%	12%	34%	9%
Immigration	12%	26%	17%	29%	16%
The environment	14%	30%	17%	21%	19%
Terrorism	25%	30%	10%	21%	14%
Gay rights	21%	21%	11%	23%	24%
Education	19%	29%	15%	22%	16%
Health care	23%	23%	11%	35%	8%
Social security	17%	25%	16%	26%	15%
The budget deficit	13%	27%	14%	35%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	32%	16%	23%	13%
Taxes	22%	22%	14%	28%	14%
Medicare	18%	24%	16%	27%	15%
Abortion	19%	21%	12%	23%	26%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	9%

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

Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	19%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	24%
Not sure	25%

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

More strict	51%
No change	28%
Less strict	11%
Not sure	11%

20. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns	15%
Protecting people from gun violence	31%
Both are equally important	50%
Not sure	3%

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

Personally own a gun	22%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun .	11%
No one in the household owns a gun	66%

22. Have you ever heard of the Brady Campaign?

Yes	54%
No	46%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	33%
Lower	23%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	19%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	36%
Not sure	5%

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

Owned by you or your family	60%
Rented from someone else	39%
Other	1%

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

Increased	19%
Stayed about the same	40%
Decreased	35%
Not sure	6%

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

Increased	21%
Stayed about the same	37%
Decreased	17%
Not sure	25%

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

Will increase a lot	3%
Will increase a little	29%
Will stay about the same	33%
Will decrease a little	13%
Will decrease a lot	4%
Not sure	17%

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

Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	25%
Not worried	33%
Don't have mortgage payments	34%

32. 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%

33. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	22%
The same amount of jobs	36%
Fewer jobs	28%
Not sure	13%

34. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

35. Education

No high school	7%
High school graduate	36%
Some college	25%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

36. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	27%
45-64	38%
65+	14%

37. Race

White	67%
Black	14%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%

38. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	22%
South	37%
West	24%

39. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	26%
Lean Republican	7%
Republican	24%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 15-17, 2012
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 8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.21.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	14 questions not reported.