

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 25-28, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.3\%$

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	15%	31%	21%	21%	11%
The economy	13%	24%	15%	41%	7%
Immigration	10%	22%	17%	40%	10%
The environment	14%	29%	19%	24%	15%
Terrorism	17%	28%	16%	28%	11%
Gay rights	21%	23%	13%	25%	17%
Education	16%	28%	19%	23%	14%
Health care	19%	21%	12%	41%	6%
Social security	12%	21%	20%	32%	15%
The budget deficit	9%	21%	18%	42%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	32%	21%	26%	11%
Taxes	10%	28%	22%	31%	9%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	40%	40%	14%	6%
The economy	83%	13%	2%	2%
Immigration	51%	33%	13%	4%
The environment	44%	35%	14%	6%
Terrorism	57%	29%	10%	3%
Gay rights	24%	28%	25%	23%
Education	60%	31%	6%	2%
Health care	74%	20%	4%	2%
Social security	66%	26%	7%	1%
The budget deficit	64%	29%	5%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	44%	39%	13%	5%
Taxes	66%	26%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	40%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	14%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%

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

Strongly Approve	18%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	6%

5. What are you likely to do this New Year's Eve?

Stay awake until midnight to ring in the New Year	68%
Go to bed before midnight	32%

6. Looking back at 2010, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	2%
A good year	26%
A bad year	55%
A very bad year	17%

7. Looking back at 2010, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year	5%
A good year	46%
A bad year	36%
A very bad year	12%

8. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2011 will be for the world?

Very optimistic	9%
Somewhat optimistic	33%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	27%
Somewhat pessimistic	23%
Very pessimistic	7%

9. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2011 will be for you and your family?

Very optimistic	13%
Somewhat optimistic	37%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	27%
Somewhat pessimistic	18%
Very pessimistic	6%

10. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	19%
About what I expected	39%
Less than I expected	32%
Not sure	9%

11. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	10%
Above Average	20%
Average	21%
Below Average	16%
Poor	25%
Not Sure	8%

12. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	14%
Somewhat strong	31%
Somewhat weak	29%
Very weak	27%

13. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	5%	16%	22%	47%	9%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	21%	18%	16%	39%	6%
Improving the economy	10%	25%	21%	40%	4%

14. Looking ahead to 2011, how much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	7%	20%	22%	40%	11%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	19%	20%	17%	36%	8%
Improving the economy	14%	26%	22%	31%	7%

15. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

More than usual	27%
About the same	30%
Less than usual	31%
Not sure	12%

16. Do you think the next Congress that was elected in November will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

More than usual	20%
About the same	35%
Less than usual	29%
Not sure	16%

17. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were two years ago when it comes to

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	3%	16%	38%	20%	15%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	3%	18%	36%	22%	13%	9%
Energy issues	2%	15%	42%	20%	13%	7%
The environment	2%	15%	53%	14%	8%	7%
The economy in your area	2%	19%	27%	25%	22%	5%
Job security	2%	14%	26%	22%	30%	5%
Government spending	2%	10%	20%	19%	43%	7%
Health care coverage	8%	21%	18%	18%	28%	7%
Education	3%	15%	38%	22%	14%	9%
Social Security and Medicare	2%	11%	28%	32%	21%	8%
The U.S. financial system	4%	19%	17%	24%	28%	7%
Wall Street	7%	24%	26%	19%	12%	12%

18. Two years from now, do you think things will be better off or worse off than they are now when it comes to...

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	3%	18%	40%	14%	11%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	6%	24%	34%	13%	9%	14%
Energy issues	5%	21%	36%	17%	9%	12%
The environment	4%	20%	45%	12%	7%	12%
The economy in your area	6%	32%	26%	14%	11%	11%
Job security	5%	29%	28%	15%	12%	11%
Government spending	4%	22%	26%	18%	19%	10%
Health care coverage	8%	23%	20%	19%	19%	12%
Education	4%	20%	38%	16%	10%	12%
Social Security and Medicare	3%	16%	28%	25%	16%	12%
The U.S. financial system	5%	26%	24%	17%	16%	12%
Wall Street	7%	26%	30%	14%	9%	15%

19. In the last year, has the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	21%
No change	33%
Less respected	46%

20. At the end of 2011, do you think the United States will have more or fewer troops in Iraq than it has now?

More troops in Iraq than it has now	5%
About the same number of troops in Iraq as it has now	39%
Fewer troops in Iraq than it has now	56%

21. At the end of 2011, do you think the United States will have more or fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now?

More troops in Afghanistan than it has now15%
 About the same number of troops in Afghanistan as it has now53%
 Fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now32%

22. In the next year, do you think the threat of terrorism will increase or decrease?

Increase41%
 Stay the same54%
 Decrease5%

23. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Nancy Pelosi	11%	18%	13%	42%	17%
Harry Reid	7%	17%	12%	34%	29%
John Boehner	10%	18%	14%	22%	36%
Mitch McConnell	5%	18%	14%	21%	41%
Hillary Clinton	24%	31%	17%	19%	8%
Barack Obama	26%	21%	14%	34%	6%
Joe Biden	14%	26%	16%	29%	15%
Sarah Palin	14%	23%	14%	40%	10%
Michelle Obama	31%	21%	15%	23%	10%

24. Of the legislation Congress has considered in the past month, which do you support?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Ratification of the START treaty to reduce American and Russian nuclear stockpiles	33%	16%	16%	9%	14%	13%
Repeal of “Don’t ask, don’t tell”	34%	11%	17%	6%	22%	9%
The DREAM Act, to allow immigrant students who arrived illegally as minors to apply for temporary legal status if enrolled in college or the military	19%	16%	11%	10%	35%	9%
A ban on Members of Congress directing spending projects to their own states or districts, known as “earmarks”	43%	17%	11%	7%	10%	11%
Increase in government regulation of food safety	36%	23%	13%	9%	10%	8%
Extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	31%	23%	12%	13%	14%	7%
The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010	35%	24%	17%	8%	4%	12%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

26. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	12%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	6%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	55%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	30%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	30%
About the same	38%
Lower	14%
Not sure	18%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	44%
Worse off financially	39%
Not sure	4%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 25-28, 2010
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 2.98, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.4.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	23 questions not reported.