

The Economist/YouGov Poll

November 8 - 10, 2020 - 1500 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1500 U.S. Registered Voters
Conducted November 8 - 10, 2020
Margin of Error ±3.2%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	22%
Off on the wrong track	64%
Not sure	14%

2. Have you heard mostly positive or mostly negative news stories about the economy, or have you not heard much news at all about the economy?

Mostly positive	17%
Equally positive and negative	32%
Mostly negative	40%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	11%

3. How serious a problem is unemployment in the U.S.?

Very serious	42%
Somewhat serious	38%
A minor problem	14%
Not a problem	2%
Not sure	3%

4. How serious a problem is unemployment in your LOCAL community?

Very serious	21%
Somewhat serious	35%
A minor problem	24%
Not a problem	9%
Not sure	10%

5. For you personally, which of the following do you consider the best measure of how the national economy is doing?

The stock market index	7%
The unemployment rate and job reports	46%
The prices of goods and services you buy	26%
Your personal finances	14%
Don't know	7%

6. What is the current unemployment rate in the U.S.? Please tell us the percentage of adults who want to work that are currently unemployed and looking for a job. If you don't know, please make your best guess.

Less than 4%	2%
Between 4% and 5%	3%
Between 5% and 6%	4%
Between 6% and 7%	17%
Between 7% and 8%	14%
Between 8% and 10%	15%
Between 10% and 12%	11%
Between 12% and 15%	7%
Greater than 15%	11%
Not sure	15%

7. Since last month, has the unemployment rate increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Increased	21%
Stayed the same	24%
Decreased	42%
Don't know	13%

8. How good of a job do you think the national unemployment rate explains the actual health of the national economy?

Very good	8%
Good	30%
Fair	33%
Poor	12%
Very poor	6%
Don't know	11%

9. The government releases unemployment numbers on the first Friday of the month. Do you think the government numbers are accurate or do you think there are more unemployed people or fewer unemployed people?

More unemployed people	52%
The government numbers are accurate	25%
Fewer unemployed people	7%
Don't know	16%

10. Do you think improving the economy is...

Something the president can do a lot about	55%
Something the president can do a little about	35%
Something that is that mostly beyond the president's control	10%

11. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the country?

Optimistic	46%
Pessimistic	36%
Not sure	18%

12. Are you better off now than you were four years ago?	
Better off now	48%
Better off four years ago	34%
Not sure	17%
13. Is the country better off now than it was four years ago?	
Better off now	38%
Better off four years ago	48%
Not sure	14%
14. How much attention have you been paying to the 2020 election campaign for president?	
A lot	71%
Some	20%
Only a little	6%
None at all	2%
15. Did you vote in the Democratic or Republican Presidential primary or caucus in your state in 2020?	
Democratic primary/caucus	44%
Republican primary/caucus	34%
Neither one	20%
Not sure	2%
16. Did you vote in the November 2020 general election?	
Yes	88%
No	12%
17. How did you vote in the presidential election this year?	
In person on election day	23%
In person before the election	28%
By mail	37%
I did not vote this year	12%
18. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2020?	
Joe Biden	45%
Donald Trump	41%
Jo Jorgensen	0%
Howie Hawkins	0%
Other	0%
Did not vote for President	14%

19. In the 2020 elections for U.S. House of Representatives, who did you vote for in the district where you live?

Democratic candidate	45%
Republican candidate	40%
Independent candidate	2%
Other candidate	0%
Did not vote for U.S. House	13%

20. When did you make up your mind about whether or not to vote?

Among 2020 voters

On Election Day	5%
A few days before the election	5%
A week before the election	3%
A month before the election	6%
In the summer	6%
I knew all along	75%

21. When did you make up your mind about who to vote for?

Among 2020 voters

On Election Day	1%
A few days before the election	3%
A week before the election	3%
A month before the election	7%
In the summer	13%
I knew all along	73%

22. How much confidence do you have that your vote in the 2020 presidential election was counted accurately?

Among 2020 voters

A great deal	49%
Quite a bit	16%
A moderate amount	11%
Only a little	7%
None at all	14%
Not sure	2%

23. How much confidence do you have that the 2020 presidential election was held fairly?

A great deal	40%
Quite a bit	8%
A moderate amount	11%
Only a little	10%
None at all	29%
Not sure	1%

24. Do you agree or disagree with the following:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Elected officials care what ordinary people think	7%	29%	33%	26%	5%
No matter who wins an election, things do not change very much	8%	18%	30%	40%	3%
The more people who vote, the better American democracy is	51%	26%	11%	5%	6%
Many citizens are not smart enough to vote	15%	24%	21%	35%	5%
Americans should be required to pass a test before being allowed to vote	12%	17%	18%	46%	7%

25. Which comes closest to your opinion:

Voting is a privilege	26%
Voting is a right	74%

26. Do you think the following statements are true or not true?

	Definitely true	Probably true	Probably not true	Definitely not true
Mail ballots are being manipulated to favor Joe Biden	30%	15%	10%	44%
Illegal immigrants voted fraudulently in 2016 and tried again in 2020	22%	23%	19%	36%
Russia is attempting to influence the election in favor of President Trump	18%	28%	26%	28%
We will never know the real outcome of this election	15%	26%	17%	41%
Many people were illegally prevented from voting this year	11%	31%	35%	23%

27. How much voter fraud do you think occurred in this election?

Enough to influence the outcome	40%
Not enough to influence the outcome	35%
None	17%
Not sure	9%

28. How much voter fraud do you think occurred in [State] this election?

Enough to influence the outcome	22%
Not enough to influence the outcome	44%
None	24%
Not sure	11%

29. Do you approve or disapprove of voting by mail?

Strongly approve	44%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	27%
Not sure	2%

30. Which of the following best describes how election officials should count mail ballots?

Mail ballots should not be permitted	16%
Only mail ballots that arrive by Election Day should be counted	30%
Mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day should be counted, as long as they arrive within a few days of the election	54%

31. In the next election, do you think there will be more mail ballots, fewer mail ballots, or about the same amount?

More mail ballots	31%
About the same amount of mail ballots	32%
Fewer mail ballots	37%

32. Some states may do recounts of the vote. Would a recount make you more or less confident in the outcome of the election?

Much more confident	12%
More confident	32%
No change	51%
Less confident	3%
Much less confident	1%

33. Before the election, what did you expect would happen:

Joe Biden would win both the Electoral College and the popular vote	40%
Joe Biden would win the Electoral College but Donald Trump would win the popular vote ..	7%
Donald Trump would win the Electoral College but Joe Biden would win the popular vote ..	30%
Donald Trump would win both the Electoral College and the popular vote	23%

34. How do you feel about the results of the 2020 presidential election?

Enthusiastic	36%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	16%
Dissatisfied but not upset	16%
Upset	28%
Not sure	4%

35. Would you say that you are angry about the results of the 2020 presidential election?

Among those upset at the election outcome

Yes	84%
No	9%
Not sure	7%

36. When it comes to U.S. presidential elections which would you prefer?

Amend the Constitution so the candidate who receives the most total votes nationwide wins the election	45%
Keep the current system where the candidate who wins the most votes in the Electoral College wins the election	44%
Not sure	12%

37. How do you feel about the next 4 years with Joe Biden as president?

Enthusiastic	35%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	15%
Dissatisfied but not upset	16%
Upset	31%
Not sure	3%

38. Would you say that Joe Biden legitimately won the election, or not?

Biden legitimately won the election	58%
Biden did NOT legitimately win the election	42%

39. Do you think Donald Trump should concede the election, or not?

He should concede	60%
He should NOT concede	40%

40. Do you think Donald Trump should contest the results of the election in court?

He should contest the election in court	46%
He should NOT contest the election in court	54%

41. If Donald Trump contests the results of the election in court, do you think it will change the outcome of the election?

It will change the outcome of the election	33%
It will NOT change the outcome of the election	67%

42. Which is better?

Unified government - the President and majorities in both houses of Congress are from the same party	33%
Divided government - the President and the majority in at least one of the houses of Congress are from different parties	41%
Not sure	26%

43. At the moment it appears that the Senate and the President may be of different parties and favor different policies. Would you rather they...

- Work together in order and compromise in order to get more done 80%
- Stick to their principles, no matter what, even if less is accomplished 20%

44. How likely do you think it is that there will be a peaceful transition of power in January?

- Very likely 21%
- Somewhat likely 26%
- Not very likely 25%
- Not likely at all 17%
- Not sure 11%

45. How closely are you following the news about COVID-19?

- Very closely 46%
- Somewhat closely 35%
- Not very closely 12%
- Not following at all 6%

46. Do you personally know anyone who... [has been laid off from work due to covid-19]? Check all that apply.

- Yes, me 12%
- Yes, a family member 18%
- Yes, a close friend 22%
- No 55%
- Prefer not to say 1%

47. Do you personally know anyone who... [has tested positive for covid-19]? Check all that apply.

- Yes, me 4%
- Yes, a family member 22%
- Yes, a close friend 33%
- No 48%
- Prefer not to say 2%

48. Do you personally know anyone who... [has died due to complications from covid-19]? Check all that apply.

- Yes, a family member 8%
- Yes, a close friend 13%
- No 79%
- Prefer not to say 2%

49. Taking into consideration both your risk of contracting it and the seriousness of the illness, how worried are you personally about experiencing COVID-19?

Very worried	23%
Somewhat worried	36%
Not too worried	23%
Not worried at all	18%

50. In the past seven days, how often have you worn a mask on your face when outside your home?

Always	56%
Most of the time	23%
Some of the time	15%
Never	6%

51. Do you think the number of cases of COVID-19 in the community where you live is...

Increasing	53%
Not changing	22%
Decreasing	11%
Not sure	13%

52. Looking at the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., do you believe that...

The pandemic is going to get worse	47%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	18%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	21%
Not sure	14%

53. How many Americans, in total, do you think will have died this year due to complications from COVID-19?

Fewer than 100,000 Americans	14%
100,000-150,000 Americans	11%
150,000-200,000 Americans	10%
200,000-250,000 Americans	33%
250,000-1 million Americans	27%
More than 1 million Americans	5%

54. When do you think it will be safe to end social distancing measures and reopen businesses as normal?

It is safe right now	20%
In about two weeks	2%
In a month or so	5%
In several months	21%
In about a year or longer	33%
Not sure	19%

55. If and when a coronavirus vaccine becomes available, will you get vaccinated?

Yes	42%
No	27%
Not sure	31%

56. How long do you think it will be before a vaccine for COVID-19 is available to the public?

Before the end of the summer	0%
Before November	1%
By the end of 2020	19%
By the summer of 2021	43%
By the end of 2021	17%
2022 or later	5%
Not sure	16%

57. Coronavirus vaccines are being fast-tracked through the approval process. How concerned are you about the safety of coronavirus vaccines?

Very concerned	36%
Somewhat concerned	35%
Not very concerned	14%
Not concerned at all	9%
Not sure	5%

58. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump has handled COVID-19?

Strongly approve	28%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	7%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Not sure	3%

59. Do you believe that a federal mask mandate would be a violation of your civil liberties, or not?

It would be a violation of civil liberties	35%
It would not be a violation of civil liberties	57%
Don't know	7%

60. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	77%	21%	2%	1%
Immigration	49%	36%	12%	3%
Climate change and the environment	42%	24%	18%	16%
National Security and foreign policy	61%	31%	7%	1%
Education	59%	30%	8%	2%
Health care	68%	23%	7%	1%
Taxes and government spending	63%	30%	6%	1%
Civil rights and civil liberties	62%	26%	9%	3%
Gun control	48%	23%	16%	12%
Crime and criminal justice reform	52%	35%	11%	2%

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

Jobs and the economy	24%
Immigration	5%
Climate change and the environment	11%
National Security and foreign policy	6%
Education	4%
Health care	23%
Taxes and government spending	10%
Civil rights and civil liberties	11%
Gun control	4%
Crime and criminal justice reform	2%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Donald Trump	33%	12%	7%	47%	1%
Joe Biden	33%	16%	13%	37%	1%
Mike Pence	31%	13%	12%	39%	4%
Kamala Harris	32%	14%	7%	42%	4%
Nancy Pelosi	20%	19%	11%	46%	5%
Mitch McConnell	12%	22%	13%	42%	11%

63. 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	23%	22%	13%	38%	3%
The Republican Party	18%	23%	18%	38%	3%

64. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

Strongly approve	32%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	6%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	2%

65. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	40%	14%	13%	30%	3%
Immigration	36%	12%	7%	42%	2%
Climate change and the environment	26%	13%	9%	43%	9%
Terrorism	38%	13%	9%	36%	5%
Education	24%	17%	10%	38%	11%
Health care	25%	18%	9%	43%	6%
Taxes and government spending	29%	17%	12%	38%	4%
Civil rights and civil liberties	30%	18%	7%	40%	6%
Gun control	33%	12%	9%	38%	8%
Crime and criminal justice reform	30%	16%	10%	36%	8%

66. Do you think the way Donald Trump uses Twitter is appropriate or inappropriate for the President of the United States?

Appropriate	31%
Inappropriate	60%
Not sure	10%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	28%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	8%

68. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	6%

69. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mitch McConnell is handling his job as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	11%

70. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court of the United States is handling its job?

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	40%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	9%
Not sure	14%

71. In general, how would you describe the political viewpoint of the Supreme Court of the United States?

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	7%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	32%
Very conservative	16%
Not sure	13%

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

Getting better	27%
About the same	28%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	20%
Lower	28%
Not sure	27%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	27%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	24%
Not sure	3%

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

More jobs	26%
The same amount of jobs	24%
Fewer jobs	29%
Not sure	21%

76. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	29%
Not very worried	61%

77. 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.	32%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	38%
Not very hard	21%
Not sure	9%

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

Very happy	26%
Happy	38%
Neither happy nor unhappy	26%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	4%

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

Very liberal	13%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	14%
Not sure	3%

80. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2016?

Hillary Clinton	42%
Donald Trump	40%
Gary Johnson	2%
Jill Stein	1%
Evan McMullin	0%
Other	2%
Did not vote for President	12%

81. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	38%
Republican	34%
Independent	26%
Other	1%
Not sure	1%

82. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Strong Democrat	29%
Not very strong Democrat	9%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	10%
Lean Republican	9%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	23%
Not sure	1%

83. Are you...?

Male	46%
Female	54%

84. Respondent age by category

Under 30	14%
30-44	22%
45-64	37%
65+	27%

85. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	72%
Black	12%
Hispanic	10%
Other	6%

86. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

No degree	59%
College grad	41%

87. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	29%
Some college	30%
College grad	26%
Postgrad	15%

88. What is your marital status?

Married	49%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	6%
Never married	26%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%

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

Yes	23%
No	77%

90. Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	18%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	22%

91. Do you own or rent the place you currently live?

Own	65%
Rent	30%
Other	5%

92. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

Under \$50K	35%
\$50-100K	30%
\$100K or more	24%
Prefer not to say	11%

93. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	38%
Somewhat important	26%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	22%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	15%
Seldom	22%
Never	30%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

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

Several times a day	27%
Once a day	15%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	5%
Seldom	15%
Never	19%
Don't know	3%

97. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	37%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	8%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	17%
Something else	5%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 8 - 10, 2020
Target population	US Registered Voters
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2016 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2016 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, news interest, and 2016 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.052 to 5.171, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.76.
Number of respondents	1500
Margin of error	± 3.2% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	44 questions not reported.