

The Economist/YouGov Poll

October 9 - 12, 2021 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted October 9 - 12, 2021
Margin of Error ±3%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	16%

2. How would you describe the current state of the American economy?

Excellent	4%
Good	18%
Fair	34%
Poor	38%
Don't know	7%

3. Which do you think is a more important problem facing the U.S. today: unemployment or inflation?

Unemployment	16%
Inflation	30%
Both equal	45%
Not sure	8%

4. 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	7%
Equally positive and negative	26%
Mostly negative	49%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	18%

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

Very serious	34%
Somewhat serious	40%
A minor problem	14%
Not a problem	4%
Not sure	8%

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

Very serious	19%
Somewhat serious	34%
A minor problem	22%
Not a problem	10%
Not sure	16%

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

The stock market index	6%
The unemployment rate and job reports	21%
The prices of goods and services you buy	50%
Your personal finances	9%
Don't know	15%

8. 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%	18%
Between 5% and 6%	10%
Between 6% and 7%	7%
Between 7% and 8%	8%
Between 8% and 10%	7%
Between 10% and 12%	6%
Between 12% and 15%	6%
Greater than 15%	8%
Not sure	27%

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

Increased	21%
Stayed the same	28%
Decreased	26%
Don't know	25%

10. How good of a job do you think the national unemployment rate does explaining the actual health of the national economy?

Very good	3%
Good	15%
Fair	33%
Poor	20%
Very poor	11%
Don't know	17%

11. 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	53%
The government numbers are accurate	17%
Fewer unemployed people	7%
Don't know	23%

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

Something the president can do a lot about	47%
Something the president can do a little about	36%
Something that is that mostly beyond the president's control	18%

13. Which President do you think is more responsible for the current state of the American economy?

President Trump	26%
President Biden	46%
Neither one	14%
Not sure	14%

14. How long do you think it will take until the economy has recovered all the ground lost during the pandemic?

Has already recovered	3%
Less than a year	4%
About a year	14%
Two years	21%
More than two years	57%

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

Very closely	26%
Somewhat closely	44%
Not very closely	21%
Not following at all	9%

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

Yes, me	11%
Yes, a family member	14%
Yes, a close friend	15%
No	62%
Prefer not to say	3%

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

Yes, me	11%
Yes, a family member	37%
Yes, a close friend	34%
No	34%
Prefer not to say	4%

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

Yes, a family member	13%
Yes, a close friend	21%
No	64%
Prefer not to say	4%

19. 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	15%
Somewhat worried	37%
Not too worried	29%
Not worried at all	19%

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

Always	35%
Most of the time	21%
Some of the time	24%
Never	20%

21. Do you think the number of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is...

Increasing	26%
Not changing	16%
Decreasing	41%
Not sure	17%

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

Increasing	20%
Not changing	20%
Decreasing	38%
Not sure	22%

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

The pandemic is going to get worse	21%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	13%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	38%
Not sure	27%

24. How would you describe your personal situation regarding COVID-19 vaccines?

I have received all the injections required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19	63%
I have started the vaccination process, but need another shot	5%
I plan to get vaccinated	6%
I will not get vaccinated	18%
I'm not sure about getting vaccinated	9%

25. Which vaccine did you receive?

Among people who have been vaccinated

Pfizer-BioNtech	50%
Moderna	39%
Oxford-AstraZeneca	1%
Johnson & Johnson	10%

26. Do you think students in K-12 schools should be required to wear masks in school?

Should	56%
Should not	32%
Not sure	13%

27. Do you think students age 12 and up should be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

Should	50%
Should not	35%
Not sure	15%

28. In general, how safe are vaccines given to children for diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella?

Very safe	56%
Somewhat safe	30%
Not very safe	8%
Not safe at all	6%

29. Do you think parents should be required to have their children vaccinated against infectious diseases?

Yes	60%
No	23%
Not sure	17%

30. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling COVID-19?

Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	10%

31. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news recently about President Joe Biden announcing a vaccine mandate?

A lot	40%
A little	46%
Nothing at all	15%

32. President Joe Biden announced that federal agencies and businesses with 100 or more employees will need to ensure all their employees are fully vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 weekly. Do you approve or disapprove of this mandate?

Strongly approve	36%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	8%

33. Do you think this mandate would be...

Too strict	40%
About right	34%
Not strict enough	12%
Not sure	13%

34. In your opinion, when do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will finally end?

The pandemic has already ended	8%
Before the end of 2021	5%
In 2022	27%
After 2022	39%
Never	22%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	15%	18%	7%	35%	26%
Ilhan Omar	10%	14%	7%	32%	38%
Rashida Tlaib	8%	12%	6%	30%	44%
Ayanna Pressley	7%	10%	5%	20%	59%
Joe Manchin	6%	17%	16%	21%	39%
Kyrsten Sinema	5%	14%	12%	20%	48%
Chuck Grassley	7%	11%	10%	20%	52%
Liz Cheney	7%	20%	16%	25%	32%
Lauren Boebert	6%	8%	6%	20%	59%
Marjorie Taylor Greene	10%	9%	6%	33%	42%

36. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news about a bipartisan infrastructure bill currently being negotiated in Congress?

A lot	36%
A little	40%
Nothing at all	24%

37. The U.S. House of Representatives has been negotiating a bipartisan \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill which would address economic, climate and health care concerns. Would you support or oppose this bill?

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	21%
Not sure	21%

38. Do you think that President Biden’s infrastructure plan would help you or harm you?

Help me	28%
Harm me	28%
Not really affect me	19%
Not sure	24%

39. As you may know, the 1973 Supreme Court Case Roe v. Wade established a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its Roe v. Wade decision, or not?

Yes, would like to see Roe v. Wade overturned	28%
No, would not like to see Roe v. Wade overturned (maintain abortion rights in all 50 states)	52%
Not sure	20%

40. How likely do you think it is that the U.S. Supreme Court will overturn Roe v. Wade, the case that made abortion legal across the United States?

Definitely will happen	4%
Very likely	14%
50% chance	40%
Unlikely	31%
Definitely will not happen	11%

41. Do you believe Roe v. Wade will be overturned within the next year?

Asked of those who believe Roe v. Wade has at least a 50% chance of being overturned

Yes	21%
No	20%
Not sure	59%

42. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news recently about new abortion laws in Texas and Mississippi?

A lot	40%
A little	42%
Nothing at all	18%

43. Earlier the Texas State Legislature passed a law banning abortions after 6 weeks of pregnancy, and allowing people to sue healthcare providers for facilitating abortions. Do you approve or disapprove of this law?

Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	13%

44. Earlier the Mississippi State Legislature passed a law banning abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Do you approve or disapprove of this law?

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Not sure	15%

45. Do you personally know anyone who has had an abortion? Check all that apply.

Yes, me	7%
Yes, a family member	18%
Yes, a close friend	18%
Yes, an acquaintance	24%
No	45%
Prefer not to say	8%

46. How many guns are in your house?

Asked of those who own guns or there is a gun in the household

1	41%
2	25%
3-5	18%
6-10	7%
More than 10	9%

47. Which is more important?

The right of people to own guns	20%
Protecting people from gun violence	29%
Both are equally important	44%
Not sure	8%

48. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now?

Make gun laws more strict	50%
No change	27%
Make gun laws less strict	13%
Not sure	10%

49. Do you think the number of school shootings has increased or decreased over the last 20 years?

School shootings have increased	60%
School shootings have decreased	6%
About the same	19%
Not sure	14%

50. Do you think new gun control laws or just better enforcement of current gun control laws would better prevent future school shootings?

New gun control laws	30%
Better enforcement of current gun control laws	46%
Not sure	24%

51. Are you worried that a school shooting could happen at a school in your area?

Yes	46%
No	37%
Not sure	18%

52. How worried are you that a school shooting could happen at a school in your area?

Very worried	19%
Somewhat worried	24%
Not very worried	3%
Not worried at all	37%
Not sure	18%

53. Has there ever been a school shooting in your community?

Yes	13%
No	69%
Not sure	18%

54. Do you support or oppose giving teachers and school administrators permission to carry firearms on school property?

Support strongly	21%
Support somewhat	20%
Oppose somewhat	14%
Oppose strongly	28%
Not sure	17%

55. Do you think arming school teachers with firearms would:

Increase the number of shootings in schools	21%
Reduce the number of shootings in schools	29%
Not affect the number of shootings in schools	24%
Not sure	25%

56. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	65%	28%	4%	2%
Immigration	48%	31%	14%	6%
Climate change and the environment	45%	23%	17%	16%
Foreign policy	39%	41%	14%	6%
National Security	63%	26%	8%	4%
Education	60%	27%	9%	4%
Health care	67%	24%	6%	3%
Taxes and government spending	58%	30%	8%	4%
Abortion	44%	30%	18%	8%
Civil rights	56%	27%	11%	6%
Civil liberties	56%	31%	8%	5%
Guns	46%	31%	14%	8%
Crime	57%	33%	6%	4%
Criminal justice reform	48%	31%	14%	7%

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

Jobs and the economy	14%
Immigration	8%
Climate change and the environment	15%
Foreign policy	1%
National Security	7%
Education	5%
Health care	18%
Taxes and government spending	10%
Abortion	4%
Civil rights	7%
Civil liberties	3%
Guns	4%
Crime	3%
Criminal justice reform	2%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Joe Biden	23%	20%	11%	40%	6%
Kamala Harris	19%	20%	10%	40%	11%
Nancy Pelosi	16%	18%	11%	44%	11%
Kevin McCarthy	8%	13%	14%	31%	35%
Mitch McConnell	5%	15%	19%	43%	19%
Chuck Schumer	11%	20%	11%	34%	23%
Donald Trump	25%	15%	8%	44%	6%
Barack Obama	33%	17%	10%	32%	7%

59. 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	16%	21%	15%	38%	10%
The Republican Party	11%	20%	18%	41%	10%

60. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does at this point in its two-year term?

More than usual	9%
About the same	24%
Less than usual	42%
Not sure	26%

61. Who is more to blame for Congress achieving less than usual?

Democrats in Congress	42%
Republicans in Congress	24%
Both equally	32%
Neither	0%
Not sure	2%

62. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President?

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	11%

63. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	16%	23%	14%	36%	12%
Education	15%	22%	10%	33%	20%
Health care	15%	22%	13%	33%	17%
Abortion	13%	19%	11%	34%	23%
Guns	9%	19%	13%	37%	22%

64. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	17%

65. How much do you think Joe Biden cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	22%
Some	18%
Not much	14%
Doesn't care at all	36%
Not sure	10%

66. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Joe Biden as a person?

Like a lot	24%
Like somewhat	15%
Neither like nor dislike	17%
Dislike somewhat	8%
Dislike a lot	27%
Not sure	9%

67. Would you say Joe Biden is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	15%
Somewhat strong	25%
Somewhat weak	18%
Very weak	42%

68. Do you think Joe Biden is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	36%
Not honest and trustworthy	46%
Not sure	17%

69. Are you confident in Joe Biden’s ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	34%
Uneasy	49%
Not sure	16%

70. Do you think Joe Biden...

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	45%
Not sure	18%

71. Do you think that Joe Biden will be able to bring the country together as President?

Yes	16%
No	58%
Not sure	25%

72. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the next few years with Joe Biden as President?

Optimistic	33%
Pessimistic	47%
Not sure	20%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	12%

74. 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	16%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	16%

75. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chuck Schumer is handling his job as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	24%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	21%

77. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kevin McCarthy is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	34%

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

Strongly approve	7%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	24%
Not sure	25%

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

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	8%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	18%
Very conservative	17%
Not sure	25%

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

Getting better	14%
About the same	25%
Getting worse	48%
Not sure	13%

81. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?	
Higher	18%
About the same	21%
Lower	26%
Not sure	35%
82. Do you personally (or jointly with a spouse), have any money invested in the stock market right now, either in an individual stock or in a mutual fund?	
Yes	39%
No	61%
83. Would you say that you and your family are...	
Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	32%
Not sure	9%
84. Six months from now do you think there will be...	
More jobs	24%
The same amount of jobs	30%
Fewer jobs	20%
Not sure	26%
85. How worried are you about losing your job?	
Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	27%
Not very worried	63%
86. 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.	24%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	31%
Not very hard	27%
Not sure	18%
87. How happy would you say you are with your current job?	
Very happy	23%
Happy	35%
Neither happy nor unhappy	29%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	5%

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

Very liberal	13%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	18%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	12%

89. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	80%
Not registered	20%

90. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2020?

Joe Biden	34%
Donald Trump	31%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	33%

91. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

The Democratic Party candidate	45%
The Republican Party candidate	37%
Other	2%
Not sure	11%
I would not vote	4%

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

Democrat	32%
Republican	25%
Independent	30%
Other	4%
Not sure	9%

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

Strong Democrat	21%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	9%
Strong Republican	16%
Not sure	6%

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

Biden legitimately won the election	61%
Biden did NOT legitimately win the election	39%

95. How likely or unlikely do you think it is that Donald Trump will be re-instated as President before the end of 2021?

Very likely	7%
Somewhat likely	8%
Not very likely	13%
Not likely at all	60%
Not sure	12%

96. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

97. Respondent age by category

Under 30	20%
30-44	23%
45-64	34%
65+	22%

98. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	68%
Black	13%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%

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

HS or less	37%
Some college	29%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	12%

100. What is your marital status?

Married	44%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	6%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

101. Calculated from respondent's state of residence	
Northeast	17%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	23%
102. How would you describe the place where you live?	
Urban	29%
Suburb	37%
Rural/Other	34%
103. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?	
Yes	20%
No	80%
104. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?	
Under \$50K	44%
\$50-100K	25%
\$100K or more	17%
Prefer not to say	14%
105. How important is religion in your life?	
Very important	35%
Somewhat important	26%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	25%
106. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?	
More than once a week	7%
Once a week	15%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	21%
Never	34%
Don't know	5%
107. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?	
Yes	30%
No	70%

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

Several times a day	24%
Once a day	14%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	13%
Never	21%
Don't know	7%

109. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	30%
Roman Catholic	17%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	25%
Something else	7%

The Economist/YouGov Poll
October 9 - 12, 2021 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 9 - 12, 2021
Target population	US Adult Population
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 2018 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2018 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, and both 2016 and 2020 Presidential votes (or non-votes). The weights range from 0.27 to 6.03, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.605.
Number of respondents	1500 1266 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.2% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	40 questions not reported.