

The Economist/YouGov Poll
December 6 - 8, 2020 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted December 6 - 8, 2020
 Margin of Error ±3.3%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	20%
Off on the wrong track	64%
Not sure	17%

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	10%
Equally positive and negative	29%
Mostly negative	48%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	13%

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

Very serious	53%
Somewhat serious	32%
A minor problem	9%
Not a problem	1%
Not sure	5%

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

Very serious	26%
Somewhat serious	37%
A minor problem	16%
Not a problem	4%
Not sure	17%

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	8%
The unemployment rate and job reports	41%
The prices of goods and services you buy	23%
Your personal finances	12%
Don't know	17%

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%	1%
Between 4% and 5%	3%
Between 5% and 6%	4%
Between 6% and 7%	15%
Between 7% and 8%	11%
Between 8% and 10%	12%
Between 10% and 12%	11%
Between 12% and 15%	8%
Greater than 15%	14%
Not sure	22%

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

Increased	36%
Stayed the same	22%
Decreased	22%
Don't know	20%

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

Very good	9%
Good	24%
Fair	32%
Poor	14%
Very poor	5%
Don't know	16%

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	57%
The government numbers are accurate	16%
Fewer unemployed people	6%
Don't know	22%

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

Something the president can do a lot about	50%
Something the president can do a little about	35%
Something that is that mostly beyond the president's control	15%

11. How much credit or blame would you say President Trump deserves for the current state of the U.S. economy?

All of it	19%
Most of it	30%
Some of it	32%
None of it	18%

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

Optimistic	39%
Pessimistic	35%
Not sure	26%

13. Are you better off now than you were four years ago?

Better off now	42%
Better off four years ago	36%
Not sure	22%

14. Is the country better off now than it was four years ago?

Better off now	27%
Better off four years ago	54%
Not sure	19%

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

A great deal	39%
Quite a bit	10%
A moderate amount	9%
Only a little	9%
None at all	27%
Not sure	7%

16. Some states are doing recounts of the vote. In general, do recounts make you more or less confident in the outcome of the election?

Much more confident	11%
More confident	25%
No change	51%
Less confident	8%
Much less confident	5%

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

Enthusiastic	28%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	22%
Dissatisfied but not upset	13%
Upset	27%
Not sure	10%

18. 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	44%
Keep the current system where the candidate who wins the most votes in the Electoral College wins the election	36%
Not sure	21%

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

He should concede	61%
He should NOT concede	39%

20. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion Rudy Giuliani?

Very favorable	14%
Somewhat favorable	19%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	34%
Don't know	22%

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

A lot	34%
A little	25%
None	29%
Not sure	12%

22. Do you think the amount of voter fraud in the election caused Donald Trump to lose any of the states he lost in the election this year, or did it not change who won those states?

Among those who think some voter fraud might have occurred

Enough fraud to change who won the election	57%
Did not change who won any of the states	43%

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President-Elect Joe Biden is handling the post-election period?

Strongly Approve	34%
Somewhat Approve	18%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%
Strongly Disapprove	20%
Not Sure	16%

24. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the post-election period?

Strongly Approve	20%
Somewhat Approve	14%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%
Strongly Disapprove	43%
Not Sure	10%

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

Very likely	18%
Somewhat likely	28%
Not very likely	23%
Not likely at all	14%
Not sure	17%

26. Do you think that Joe Biden will be inaugurated President in January 2021?

Yes	61%
No	15%
Not sure	24%

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

Very closely	36%
Somewhat closely	41%
Not very closely	15%
Not following at all	8%

28. 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	19%
Yes, a close friend	22%
No	52%
Prefer not to say	3%

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

Yes, me	5%
Yes, a family member	28%
Yes, a close friend	33%
No	43%
Prefer not to say	3%

30. 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	15%
No	75%
Prefer not to say	4%

31. 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	25%
Somewhat worried	37%
Not too worried	26%
Not worried at all	12%

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

Always	57%
Most of the time	22%
Some of the time	15%
Never	6%

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

Increasing	56%
Not changing	17%
Decreasing	7%
Not sure	20%

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

Increasing	72%
Not changing	11%
Decreasing	5%
Not sure	12%

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

The pandemic is going to get worse	45%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	25%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	12%
Not sure	18%

36. 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	7%
200,000-250,000 Americans	17%
250,000-500,000 Americans	37%
500,000-750,000 Americans	5%
750,000-1 million Americans	2%
More than 1 million Americans	7%

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

It is safe right now	15%
In about two weeks	4%
In a month or so	5%
In several months	25%
In about a year or longer	33%
Not sure	19%

38. When a coronavirus vaccine becomes available, will you get vaccinated?

Yes	42%
No	32%
Not sure	27%

39. How long do you think it will be before a vaccine for COVID-19 is available for you?

Among those who definitely will, or might get vaccinated

By the end of 2020	8%
By the spring of 2021	39%
By the summer of 2021	27%
By the end of 2021	12%
2022 or later	2%
Not sure	12%

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

Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not very concerned	19%
Not concerned at all	10%
Not sure	7%

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

Strongly approve	24%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	8%

42. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion Anthony Fauci?

Very favorable	32%
Somewhat favorable	18%
Somewhat unfavorable	14%
Very unfavorable	14%
Don't know	22%

43. 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	30%
It would not be a violation of civil liberties	55%
Don't know	15%

44. Do you plan to celebrate the holidays with others this year?

Yes	46%
No	40%
Not sure	14%

45. How do you plan to celebrate the holidays this year?
Among those planning to celebrate the holidays this year

With members of my household only	27%
With household and friends	10%
With household, friends, and extended family	23%
With household and extended family	40%

46. Will you travel to another town or city to celebrate the holidays?
Among those planning to celebrate the holidays this year

Yes	24%
No	68%
Not sure	8%

47. Will you travel to another state to celebrate the holidays?
Among those planning to celebrate the holidays this year

Yes	15%
No	81%
Not sure	4%

48. What is the age of the oldest person you plan on celebrating the Holiday Season with?
Among those planning to celebrate the holidays this year

18-29	3%
30-44	10%
45-64	32%
65-80	42%
80+	12%

49. Are there currently COVID-19 restrictions in your community?

Yes	63%
No	23%
Not sure	14%

50. Should COVID-19 restrictions (closing bars, restaurants, limiting travel) be more strict, less strict, or stay the same over the Holiday Season?

Among those with COVID-19 restrictions in their communities

More strict	44%
Stay the same	34%
Less strict	22%

51. Should restrictions still be eased even if less strict restrictions result in increased infections?

Among those who would support COVID-19 restrictions becoming less strict

Yes, even if it causes a large increase in infections	40%
Yes, even if it causes a small increase in infections	48%
No	12%

52. Would it be acceptable to you to close bars and restaurants in order to allow people to spend time with their extended families over the holidays?

Acceptable	64%
Not acceptable	36%

53. How long should the bar and restaurant closures remain in place?

Among those who think closing bars and restaurants would be worth it

Until the end of January	47%
Until the end of February	18%
Until the end of March	19%
Later than the end of March	17%

54. Would it be acceptable to you to close schools in order to allow people to spend time with their extended families over the holidays?

Acceptable	61%
Not acceptable	39%

55. How long should the school closures remain in place?

Among those who think closing schools would be worth it

Until the end of January	47%
Until the end of February	14%
Until the end of March	15%
Later than the end of March	23%

56. Do you believe that people traveling home for the holidays will result in additional deaths due to COVID-19?

Yes	51%
No	25%
Not sure	24%

57. How many COVID-19 deaths do you think will result from people traveling home for the holidays?

Among those who think people traveling will result in additional deaths

1,000 extra deaths	14%
5,000 extra deaths	16%
10,000 extra deaths	28%
50,000 extra deaths	26%
100,000 extra deaths	15%

58. Do you think these additional deaths will be acceptable?

Among those who think people traveling will result in additional deaths

Yes	6%
No	87%
Not sure	7%

59. How many Americans do you think have died from covid-19 so far?

0 to 50,000	11%
50,000 to 150,000	10%
150,000 to 250,000	21%
More than 250,000	40%
More than 400,000	5%
More than 600,000	5%
More than 1 million	7%

60. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	72%	23%	4%	1%
Immigration	42%	37%	16%	5%
Climate change and the environment	45%	25%	16%	14%
National Security and foreign policy	51%	38%	9%	2%
Education	59%	29%	9%	3%
Health care	68%	24%	5%	2%
Taxes and government spending	54%	34%	9%	3%
Civil rights and civil liberties	56%	32%	8%	3%
Gun control	44%	29%	17%	10%
Crime and criminal justice reform	50%	36%	11%	2%

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

Jobs and the economy	22%
Immigration	5%
Climate change and the environment	11%
National Security and foreign policy	6%
Education	6%
Health care	25%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil rights and civil liberties	10%
Gun control	3%
Crime and criminal justice reform	5%

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	28%	12%	8%	45%	5%
Joe Biden	27%	22%	13%	30%	8%
Mike Pence	25%	16%	12%	34%	14%
Kamala Harris	25%	19%	9%	34%	13%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	22%	12%	40%	13%
Mitch McConnell	8%	21%	16%	37%	18%

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	18%	25%	12%	33%	12%
The Republican Party	13%	23%	17%	35%	12%

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

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	8%

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	32%	15%	13%	30%	10%
Immigration	30%	13%	8%	40%	8%
Climate change and the environment	21%	14%	9%	43%	13%
Terrorism	29%	15%	11%	34%	11%
Education	20%	19%	11%	33%	17%
Health care	20%	21%	9%	39%	11%
Taxes and government spending	23%	19%	11%	36%	11%
Civil rights and civil liberties	23%	18%	10%	38%	11%
Gun control	27%	13%	10%	34%	15%
Crime and criminal justice reform	24%	17%	10%	35%	15%

66. Would you say Donald Trump is...

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	15%
Conservative	28%
Very conservative	22%
Not sure	28%

67. How much do you think Donald Trump cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	27%
Some	14%
Not much	10%
Doesn't care at all	44%
Not sure	5%

68. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Donald Trump as a person?

Like a lot	17%
Like somewhat	12%
Neither like nor dislike	15%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	41%
Not sure	6%

69. Would you say Donald Trump is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	33%
Somewhat strong	16%
Somewhat weak	15%
Very weak	36%

70. Do you think Donald Trump is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	31%
Not honest and trustworthy	55%
Not sure	14%

71. Are you confident in Donald Trump's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	36%
Uneasy	53%
Not sure	12%

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

Appropriate	27%
Inappropriate	60%
Not sure	13%

73. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	23%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

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

A lot	27%
Some	24%
Not much	14%
Doesn't care at all	27%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	23%
Like somewhat	21%
Neither like nor dislike	19%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	21%
Not sure	6%

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

Very strong	19%
Somewhat strong	32%
Somewhat weak	18%
Very weak	32%

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

Honest and trustworthy	41%
Not honest and trustworthy	41%
Not sure	18%

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

Confident	44%
Uneasy	41%
Not sure	15%

79. Do you think United States relations with allied countries will get better or worse with Joe Biden as president?

Better	45%
Worse	33%
No change	7%
Not sure	16%

80. Are you confident in Joe Biden's ability to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	45%
Uneasy	38%
Not sure	16%

81. Do you think the U.S. economy will get better, get worse or will it stay the same with Joe Biden as President?

Get better	39%
Get worse	36%
Stay the same	9%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes	29%
No	44%
Not sure	28%

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

Optimistic	44%
Pessimistic	39%
Not sure	17%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	11%

85. 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	11%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	14%

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

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	20%

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

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	34%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	9%
Not sure	26%

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

Very liberal	1%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	26%

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

Getting better	13%
About the same	26%
Getting worse	47%
Not sure	14%

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

Higher	24%
About the same	22%
Lower	23%
Not sure	31%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	21%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	28%
Not sure	9%

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

More jobs	27%
The same amount of jobs	23%
Fewer jobs	26%
Not sure	24%

93. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	11%
Somewhat worried	33%
Not very worried	56%

94. 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.	30%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	32%
Not very hard	23%
Not sure	15%

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

Very happy	21%
Happy	35%
Neither happy nor unhappy	33%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	5%

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

Very liberal	10%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	18%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	15%

97. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	61%
Not registered	39%

98. Did you vote in the November 2020 general election?

Yes	63%
No	37%

99. How did you vote in the presidential election this year?

In person on election day	28%
In person before the election	32%
By mail	39%

100. How did you vote in the presidential election this year?

In person on election day	27%
In person before the election	31%
By mail	38%
I did not vote this year	4%

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

Joe Biden	30%
Donald Trump	27%
Jo Jorgensen	0%
Howie Hawkins	0%
Other	0%
Did not vote for President	43%

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

Joe Biden	30%
Donald Trump	27%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	43%

103. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?	
Democrat	31%
Republican	23%
Independent	32%
Other	3%
Not sure	11%
104. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?	
Strong Democrat	21%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	9%
Not very strong Republican	7%
Strong Republican	15%
Not sure	8%
105. Are you... ?	
Male	47%
Female	53%
106. Respondent age by category	
Under 30	20%
30-44	23%
45-64	34%
65+	23%
107. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?	
White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	7%
108. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
No degree	67%
College grad	33%
109. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
HS or less	37%
Some college	30%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	12%

110. What is your marital status?	
Married	41%
Separated	2%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	5%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	7%
111. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?	
Yes	22%
No	78%
112. Calculated from respondent's state of residence	
Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	39%
West	23%
113. Do you own or rent the place you currently live?	
Own	56%
Rent	37%
Other	7%
114. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?	
Under \$50K	48%
\$50-100K	25%
\$100K or more	13%
Prefer not to say	14%
115. How important is religion in your life?	
Very important	38%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	21%
116. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?	
More than once a week	9%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	23%
Never	31%
Don't know	4%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

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

Several times a day	26%
Once a day	13%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	15%
Never	19%
Don't know	6%

119. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	29%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	3%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	7%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 6 - 8, 2020
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 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, and 2016 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.051 to 5.145, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.854.
Number of respondents	1500 1167 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.4% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	43 questions not reported.