

The Economist/YouGov Poll

September 26 - 28, 2021 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted September 26 - 28, 2021
Margin of Error ±2.7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	16%

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

Excellent	4%
Good	20%
Fair	36%
Poor	34%
Don't know	7%

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

Unemployment	19%
Inflation	28%
Both equal	44%
Not sure	9%

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

Very closely	30%
Somewhat closely	43%
Not very closely	20%
Not following at all	7%

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

Yes, me	9%
Yes, a family member	13%
Yes, a close friend	14%
No	66%
Prefer not to say	3%

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

Yes, me	10%
Yes, a family member	35%
Yes, a close friend	34%
No	38%
Prefer not to say	2%

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

Yes, a family member	12%
Yes, a close friend	21%
No	67%
Prefer not to say	3%

8. 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	16%
Somewhat worried	39%
Not too worried	28%
Not worried at all	16%

9. 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	23%
Some of the time	25%
Never	17%

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

Increasing	44%
Not changing	19%
Decreasing	20%
Not sure	17%

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

Increasing	33%
Not changing	21%
Decreasing	23%
Not sure	23%

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

The pandemic is going to get worse	25%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	19%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	30%
Not sure	25%

13. 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	62%
I have started the vaccination process, but need another shot	5%
I plan to get vaccinated	5%
I will not get vaccinated	17%
I'm not sure about getting vaccinated	11%

14. Which vaccine did you receive?

Among people who have been vaccinated

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

15. What is the most important reason you haven't gotten vaccinated yet?

Asked of those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19

Haven't had the time to get vaccinated	8%
Already had COVID	6%
Don't think I'm personally likely to contract COVID	8%
COVID vaccines don't work	8%
Side effects of vaccines worry me	28%
Don't trust any vaccines	10%
Don't trust drug companies	9%
Don't trust government	22%

16. To combat variants, some countries — including the U.S. — are now or will soon be offering boosters to adults. Would you get a booster shot if it were available to you?

Asked of those who have been vaccinated for COVID-19

Yes	67%
No	11%
Not sure	17%
I have already received a booster	5%

17. How much do you trust medical advice from each of the following officials?

	Trust a lot	Trust somewhat	Neither trust nor distrust	Distrust somewhat	Distrust a lot	Not sure
Anthony Fauci	29%	13%	10%	8%	28%	11%
Rochelle Walensky	10%	9%	15%	7%	13%	47%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	24%	26%	13%	13%	17%	7%
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	21%	28%	16%	12%	14%	8%

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

Should	58%
Should not	27%
Not sure	16%

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

Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	11%

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

The pandemic has already ended	7%
Before the end of 2021	6%
In 2022	29%
After 2022	37%
Never	21%

21. Which one of the three branches of the U.S. federal government do you think is the most powerful?

The Executive Branch - The President and the federal agencies	15%
The Legislative Branch - The U.S. Congress	14%
The Judicial Branch - The Supreme Court of the United States and other federal courts	17%
They are all equally powerful	36%
Not sure	18%

22. Which branch of the federal government has the final authority for determining if a law is constitutional or not?

The Executive Branch - The President and the federal agencies	7%
The Legislative Branch - The U.S. Congress	9%
The Judicial Branch - The Supreme Court of the United States and other federal courts	66%
Not sure	18%

23. How much have you heard or read about the possibility of a shutdown of the federal government next month if Congress cannot reach an agreement on a funding bill?

A lot	21%
A little	48%
Nothing at all	31%

24. Do you think that you would be personally affected by a shutdown of the federal government?

Definitely yes	13%
Probably yes	19%
Hard to say	35%
Probably no	21%
Definitely no	12%

25. As you may know, the limit on the country's overall liabilities, including the federal deficit and other government debts, is called the debt ceiling. In order for the U.S. Treasury to incur debt above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling, which it has done regularly in the past. Congress is currently considering whether to raise the debt ceiling, since the current limit will be reached this fall. What is your opinion?

Congress should raise the debt ceiling	34%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	32%
Not sure	34%

26. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not very concerned	14%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	15%

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

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	27%
Strongly disapprove	18%
Not sure	19%

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

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	9%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	17%
Not sure	19%

29. Do you think the Supreme Court is more liberal or more conservative than the American public in general?

Supreme Court is more liberal than the American public	16%
Supreme Court is more conservative than the American public	40%
The Supreme Court is about in line with the American public	19%
Not sure	26%

30. Do you think the Supreme Court has been impartial in its decisions or do you think it has tended to favor one group more than another?

Impartial in its decisions	25%
Tended to favor one group more than another	48%
Not sure	27%

31. When it comes to partisanship, do you think the Supreme Court has been fair and impartial or do you think the Court has been biased against Democrats or biased against Republicans?

Biased against Democrats	29%
Biased against Republicans	19%
Fair and impartial	24%
Not sure	28%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Brett Kavanaugh	9%	19%	12%	27%	33%
Neil Gorsuch	8%	17%	14%	14%	47%
Elena Kagan	16%	14%	12%	12%	47%
Sonia Sotomayor	20%	15%	11%	14%	39%
Samuel Alito	9%	18%	12%	14%	47%
John Roberts	6%	21%	19%	12%	42%
Stephen Breyer	8%	19%	13%	8%	52%
Amy Coney Barrett	11%	18%	13%	23%	36%
Clarence Thomas	17%	15%	10%	23%	34%

33. Supreme Court justices have lifetime appointments and remain in office until they retire or die. When Supreme Court justices consider retiring, how much should they consider the political party of the President who would name their successor and whether that President would appoint someone who shares their political beliefs?

Justices should retire based on the President's political party	5%
Justices should consider the President's political party when they retire, but it shouldn't be the only thing they consider	32%
Justices should not consider the President's political party when they retire	36%
Not sure	26%

34. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer was appointed in 1994, and is now 82 years old. When thinking about this, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Justice Breyer should retire from the Supreme Court	43%
Justice Breyer should not retire from the Supreme Court	21%
Don't know	36%

35. When do you think abortion should be legal?

Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.	30%
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions).	28%
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.	28%
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.	13%

36. On the subject of abortion, at what point in a pregnancy do you think abortions should be banned?

Abortion should never be banned	28%
Banned after six months (the second trimester)	13%
Banned after 15 weeks	7%
Banned after three months (the first trimester)	14%
Banned after six weeks (when a fetal heartbeat can be detected)	19%
Banned after conception (always banned)	19%

37. Do you think it should be possible for a woman to legally obtain an abortion if... Check all that apply.

	Yes	No	Not sure
The baby is diagnosed with congenital disorder resulting in little or no life expectancy	63%	19%	17%
There is a strong chance of the baby having a physical or mental disability	50%	30%	20%
The woman is married and does not want any more children	40%	47%	13%
The woman's own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy	77%	11%	12%
The family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children	44%	41%	15%
The woman became pregnant as a result of rape	73%	15%	12%
The woman became pregnant as a result of incest	70%	15%	15%
The woman is not married and does not want to marry the man	39%	46%	15%
The woman wants it for any reason	37%	46%	17%

38. A pregnant woman should never be able to obtain a legal abortion

Yes	7%
No	89%
Not sure	4%

39. Which of the following people, if any, do you believe should be punished for an illegal abortion? Check all that apply.

No one should be punished	47%
The woman getting the abortion	28%
The man responsible for the pregnancy	14%
The doctor performing the abortion	38%
Other medical staff assisting in the abortion	26%
Anyone who helped the woman attain the abortion (e.g. taxi or rideshare drivers taking the woman to an abortion clinic)	14%

40. Here in [state of residence], how easy or hard do you think it is for a woman to get an abortion?

Very easy	14%
Easy	25%
Neither easy or hard	45%
Hard	10%
Very hard	6%

41. Here in [state of residence], do you think that laws should be changed to make it easier for a woman to get an abortion, be changed to make it harder for a woman to get an abortion, or should the laws stay as they are now?

Make it easier	32%
Make it harder	34%
Stay as they are now	34%

42. 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	27%
No, would not like to see Roe v. Wade overturned (maintain abortion rights in all 50 states)	51%
Not sure	22%

43. 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	3%
Very likely	14%
50% chance	46%
Unlikely	30%
Definitely will not happen	8%

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

A lot	37%
A little	40%
Nothing at all	23%

45. 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	21%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	14%

46. 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	24%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	31%
Not sure	14%

47. In general, do you think immigration makes the U.S. better off or worse off, or does it not make much difference?

Better off	33%
Worse off	32%
Doesn't make much difference	19%
Not sure	16%

48. Do you believe the US is a nation of immigrants?

Yes	77%
No	11%
Not sure	12%

49. How serious a problem is illegal immigration in the U.S. as a whole?

Very serious	40%
Somewhat serious	19%
A minor problem	24%
Not a problem	8%
Not sure	9%

50. How serious a problem is illegal immigration in your LOCAL community?

Very serious	12%
Somewhat serious	17%
A minor problem	22%
Not a problem	28%
Not sure	21%

51. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the U.S.?

They should be allowed to stay in the U.S. and apply for citizenship.	51%
They should be allowed to stay in the U.S., but not become citizens.	11%
They should be required to leave the U.S.	38%

52. Do you think the federal government should increase or decrease the level of LEGAL immigration into the United States, or leave the level the same?

Increase LEGAL immigration	32%
Decrease LEGAL immigration	23%
Not change the level of LEGAL immigration	28%
Not sure	17%

53. When it comes to immigration, which party do you trust most?

Republican party	26%
Democratic party	27%
Both equally	5%
Neither	31%
Not sure	11%

54. Do you think the United States should or should not offer asylum to Afghan refugees who helped US forces in Afghanistan?

Should offer asylum	62%
Should not offer asylum	17%
Not sure	22%

55. Do you think the United States should or should not offer asylum to civilians fleeing violence in Afghanistan?

Should offer asylum	45%
Should not offer asylum	27%
Not sure	28%

56. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news about the deportation of Haitians trying to enter the United States from Mexico?

A lot	34%
A little	43%
Nothing at all	22%

57. Do you approve or disapprove of sending those Haitian asylum seekers back to Haiti?

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	18%
Not sure	21%

58. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Biden is handling immigration?

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	20%

59. With respect to immigration, do you think the Biden's administration's policies have been...?

Too hard on immigration	18%
About right	32%
Not hard enough on immigration	50%

60. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	64%	30%	4%	2%
Immigration	48%	34%	14%	4%
Climate change and the environment	45%	24%	15%	16%
Foreign policy	40%	43%	13%	4%
National Security	61%	30%	7%	2%
Education	62%	28%	7%	3%
Health care	69%	24%	4%	3%
Taxes and government spending	57%	33%	8%	2%
Abortion	42%	32%	19%	8%
Civil rights	56%	28%	11%	5%
Civil liberties	57%	29%	9%	5%
Guns	51%	30%	13%	6%
Crime	59%	31%	8%	2%
Criminal justice reform	49%	34%	12%	6%

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

Jobs and the economy	12%
Immigration	7%
Climate change and the environment	15%
Foreign policy	1%
National Security	8%
Education	5%
Health care	18%
Taxes and government spending	9%
Abortion	4%
Civil rights	8%
Civil liberties	4%
Guns	3%
Crime	3%
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
Joe Biden	23%	21%	10%	39%	6%
Kamala Harris	18%	22%	11%	39%	10%
Nancy Pelosi	16%	19%	12%	42%	11%
Kevin McCarthy	6%	16%	15%	30%	33%
Mitch McConnell	4%	15%	20%	43%	17%
Chuck Schumer	11%	21%	11%	34%	23%
Donald Trump	24%	15%	8%	47%	6%
Barack Obama	33%	18%	12%	31%	6%

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	15%	24%	14%	38%	10%
The Republican Party	10%	22%	20%	38%	10%

64. 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	30%
Less than usual	36%
Not sure	25%

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

Democrats in Congress	47%
Republicans in Congress	20%
Both equally	31%
Neither	1%
Not sure	2%

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

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	11%

67. 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	17%	24%	14%	34%	12%
Immigration	6%	21%	18%	41%	14%
Foreign policy	12%	24%	12%	37%	16%
Guns	8%	16%	17%	35%	24%

68. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	17%

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

A lot	21%
Some	20%
Not much	14%
Doesn't care at all	36%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	23%
Like somewhat	17%
Neither like nor dislike	18%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	26%
Not sure	7%

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

Very strong	13%
Somewhat strong	30%
Somewhat weak	18%
Very weak	39%

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

Honest and trustworthy	38%
Not honest and trustworthy	44%
Not sure	18%

73. 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	50%
Not sure	16%

74. Do you think Joe Biden...

Says what he believes	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	46%
Not sure	17%

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

Yes	15%
No	60%
Not sure	25%

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

Optimistic	35%
Pessimistic	45%
Not sure	19%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	13%

78. 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	15%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	16%

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

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	25%

80. 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	15%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	23%

81. 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	5%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	30%

82. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or worse?	
Getting better	15%
About the same	28%
Getting worse	46%
Not sure	12%
83. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?	
Higher	18%
About the same	23%
Lower	29%
Not sure	29%
84. 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	42%
No	58%
85. 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	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	31%
Not sure	7%
86. Six months from now do you think there will be...	
More jobs	26%
The same amount of jobs	34%
Fewer jobs	19%
Not sure	22%
87. How worried are you about losing your job?	
Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	27%
Not very worried	64%
88. 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.	26%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	32%
Not very hard	29%
Not sure	13%

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

Very happy	20%
Happy	39%
Neither happy nor unhappy	30%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	4%

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

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	20%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	12%

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

Democrat	32%
Republican	23%
Independent	32%
Other	4%
Not sure	9%

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

Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	11%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	21%
Lean Republican	10%
Not very strong Republican	8%
Strong Republican	15%
Not sure	5%

93. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	78%
Not registered	22%

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

Biden legitimately won the election	62%
Biden did NOT legitimately win the election	38%

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	5%
Somewhat likely	7%
Not very likely	14%
Not likely at all	63%
Not sure	11%

96. 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	52%
The Republican Party candidate	48%

97. 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	34%

98. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

99. Respondent age by category

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

100. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%

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

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

102. What is your marital status?	
Married	42%
Separated	1%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	5%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	7%
103. Calculated from respondent's state of residence	
Northeast	17%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	23%
104. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?	
Yes	22%
No	78%
105. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?	
Under \$50K	43%
\$50-100K	25%
\$100K or more	19%
Prefer not to say	13%
106. How important is religion in your life?	
Very important	36%
Somewhat important	23%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	25%
107. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?	
More than once a week	6%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	23%
Never	35%
Don't know	2%
108. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?	
Yes	29%
No	71%

109. 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	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	16%
Never	20%
Don't know	3%

110. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	28%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	2%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	9%

The Economist/YouGov Poll
September 26 - 28, 2021 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 26 - 28, 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 0.312 to 3.855, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.383.
Number of respondents	1500 1246 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 2.7% (adjusted for weighting) ± 2.9% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	40 questions not reported.