The Economist/YouGov Poll
March 6 - 9, 2026 - 1563 U.S. Adult citizens

YouGov®

Sample   1563 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted   March 6 - 9, 2026
Margin of Error   ±3.4%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	33%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	8%

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2. At various times, there have been turning points in American politics, where things could have gone in a very different direction. At other times, things that seemed important turned out not to be significant. What does this moment feel more like to you?

A significant turning point	68%
Not too significant	12%
Not sure	20%

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3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation in Iran?

Approve	**39%**
Disapprove	**52%**
Strongly approve	25%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	44%
No opinion	10%

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4. Were you surprised that President Trump ordered military strikes on Iran?

Very surprised	12%
Somewhat surprised	17%
Slightly surprised	17%
Not surprised	54%

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5. Before President Trump ordered strikes on Iran, should he first have sought authorization from the U.S. Congress?

Yes	56%
No	28%
Not sure	16%

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6. Should the U.S. demand an unconditional surrender by Iran before ending the war?

Yes	33%
No	27%
Not sure	40%

7. Do you want Donald Trump to give an address to the American people explaining his objectives in Iran?

Yes	57%
No	25%
Not sure	18%

8. How much more time do you think the war in Iran will last?

A week or less	4%
More than a week but less than a month	16%
More than a month but less than a year	47%
A year or more	32%

9. Do you think Iran posed an immediate threat to the U.S. or not?

Yes, an immediate threat	25%
A threat, but not an immediate threat	38%
No, not a threat	23%
Not sure	14%

10. Who should decide who leads Iran?

The U.S. government	6%
The Iranian people	76%
Other	3%
Not sure	15%

11. Do you think U.S. military intervention will improve or worsen the situation for the Iranian people?

Improve	31%
Worsen	37%
Neither improve nor worsen	16%
Not sure	17%

12. Among the world's countries, would you say that the U.S. military is...?

The strongest	40%
Among the strongest	32%
Stronger than average	11%
About average	6%
Weaker than average	1%
Among the weakest	0%
The weakest	1%
Not sure	9%

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

Approve	**40%**
Disapprove	**55%**
Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	7%
Strongly disapprove	48%
Not sure	5%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	**37%**	**58%**	16%	21%	12%	47%	5%
Inflation	**33%**	**62%**	15%	17%	14%	48%	5%
Taxes	**38%**	**54%**	18%	20%	11%	43%	8%
Government spending	**35%**	**58%**	16%	19%	10%	48%	7%
Immigration	**45%**	**52%**	31%	13%	9%	43%	3%
Foreign policy	**39%**	**54%**	24%	15%	9%	45%	8%

15. Do you think Donald Trump's approach to immigration policy is...?

Too harsh	52%
About right	34%
Too soft	7%
Not sure	7%

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

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Kristi Noem	**20%**	**53%**	8%	12%	11%	41%	27%
Markwayne Mullin	**17%**	**32%**	9%	8%	8%	24%	51%
Howard Lutnick	**14%**	**35%**	6%	8%	9%	26%	52%
Pam Bondi	**23%**	**48%**	11%	12%	9%	38%	30%
Pete Hegseth	**29%**	**43%**	17%	12%	7%	35%	28%
Stephen Miller	**19%**	**36%**	10%	9%	5%	31%	44%

17. Do you approve or disapprove of President Trump firing Kristi Noem as Secretary of Homeland Security?

Approve **55%**
Disapprove **15%**
Strongly approve 35%
Somewhat approve 20%
Somewhat disapprove 7%
Strongly disapprove 7%
Not sure 30%

18. Would you favor or oppose President Trump firing the following people in his Cabinet?

	Favor firing	Oppose firing	Not sure
Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (Health and Human Services)	43%	33%	24%
Pam Bondi (Attorney General)	44%	22%	34%
Marco Rubio (Secretary of State)	29%	36%	35%
Pete Hegseth (Secretary of Defense)	40%	29%	31%
Scott Bessent (Secretary of Treasury)	29%	23%	48%
Howard Lutnick (Secretary of Commerce)	33%	18%	49%

19. Do you think President Trump is too quick or too slow to fire people in his administration who perform poorly?

Too quick to fire people 17%
Too slow to fire people 32%
About right 29%
Not sure 22%

20. Do you think the federal government should increase or decrease what it spends on...?

	Increase a lot	Increase slightly	Keep the same	Decrease slightly	Decrease a lot	Not sure
Colleges and universities	21%	19%	23%	11%	16%	10%
Social Security	43%	25%	19%	2%	3%	8%
Medicare	41%	26%	19%	4%	3%	8%
Medicaid	37%	22%	20%	6%	6%	8%
Aid to the poor	40%	21%	20%	6%	5%	8%
The environment	32%	19%	22%	8%	10%	9%
Foreign aid	11%	13%	23%	18%	24%	11%
Veterans	45%	29%	14%	2%	2%	8%
National defense	17%	19%	31%	12%	12%	10%
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	15%	12%	20%	10%	35%	7%

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

Inflation/prices	23%
Jobs and the economy	15%
Health care	11%
Immigration	9%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil rights	7%
National Security	6%
Climate change and the environment	5%
Civil liberties	5%
Abortion	3%
Crime	3%
Education	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Guns	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	40%
The Republican Party candidate	36%
Other	2%
Not sure	9%
I would not vote	14%

23. When deciding how to vote in the 2024 election, which of the following was the most important issue for you?
Asked of those who could have voted in 2024

Jobs and the economy	16%
Immigration	16%
Climate change and the environment	5%
Foreign policy	2%
National Security	4%
Education	2%
Health care	8%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Abortion	4%
Civil rights	5%
Civil liberties	6%
Guns	1%
Crime	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Inflation/prices	20%

24. Which of the following best describes your experiences with artificial intelligence?

I regularly use it	22%
I've used it before, but don't regularly use it	43%
I've seen it used, but haven't used it myself	17%
I've never used it or seen anyone else use it	14%
Not sure	5%

25. Do you think that the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on the U.S. economy will be...?

Entirely positive	3%
More positive than negative	13%
Equally positive and negative	25%
More negative than positive	29%
Entirely negative	12%
Not sure	17%

26. Do you think that the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on society will be...?

Entirely positive	3%
More positive than negative	12%
Equally positive and negative	27%
More negative than positive	33%
Entirely negative	14%
Not sure	11%

27. Which of the following comes closest to your view ?

The U.S. military should be able to use AI tools any way it wants	25%
AI companies should be able to restrict how their AI tools are used by the military	44%
Not sure	32%

28. Would the U.S. military using AI tools make the U.S. ...?

More safe	22%
Less safe	25%
It won't make a difference	15%
Not sure	38%

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

Total Excellent/Good	**27%**
Total Fair/Poor	**70%**
Excellent	4%
Good	23%
Fair	33%
Poor	37%
Don't know	3%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	21%
Getting worse	53%
Not sure	6%

31. Thinking ahead to 12 months from now, will prices be higher or lower than they are today?

Higher	57%
About the same	21%
Lower	11%
Not sure	11%

32. Which do you think is a more important problem facing the U.S. today?

Unemployment	6%
Inflation	36%
Both equal	52%
Not sure	6%

33. In your experience, have prices of the following goods gone up or down in the last year?

	Gone up a lot	Gone up a little	Not changed	Gone down a little	Gone down a lot	Not sure
Gas	35%	35%	7%	12%	5%	5%
Cars	38%	23%	13%	5%	1%	20%
Food	53%	26%	8%	8%	1%	3%
Housing costs (such as rent or mortgage payments)	43%	27%	14%	5%	1%	11%

34. Do you believe the United States is currently in an economic recession?

Yes	33%
No	36%
Not sure	31%

35. How likely do you think it is that there will be an economic recession during the next twelve months?

Very likely	6%
Somewhat likely	18%
Not very likely	17%
Not at all likely	7%
Not sure	18%
Not asked - Already in a recession	33%

36. Is now a good or a bad time to invest in the stock market?

Good time	24%
Bad time	32%
Not sure	44%

37. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	45%
Middle class	44%
Upper middle class	10%
Wealthy	1%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	18%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	5%

39. Looking ahead, do you think that A YEAR FROM NOW you and your household will be...

Better off financially	25%
Just about the same as now	38%
Worse off financially	23%
Not sure	14%

40. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time	34%
Part-time	11%
Temporarily laid off	1%
Unemployed	11%
Retired	22%
Permanently disabled	7%
Homemaker	7%
Student	4%
Other	3%

41. How happy are you with your current job?
Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	19%
Happy	47%
Neither happy nor unhappy	23%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	3%

42. Thinking about the total amount you earn from your job, including bonuses, commissions, and tips, do you expect to earn more or less in the next 12 months than you did in the previous 12 months?
Asked of those currently employed

Much more	9%
Slightly more	27%
About the same	43%
Slightly less	7%
Much less	4%
Not sure	10%

43. How worried are you about losing your job?
Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	7%
Somewhat worried	25%
Not very worried	68%

44. 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?
Asked of those currently employed

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.	39%
Not very hard	25%
Not sure	10%

45. How easy would it be for you to pay an unexpected $1,000 expense?

Very easy	18%
Somewhat easy	20%
Somewhat difficult	26%
Very difficult	18%
Impossible	18%

46. Do you think the federal government should or should not pursue policies that try to reduce the gap in wealth between the richest and poorest Americans?

Should	60%
Should not	19%
Not sure	21%

47. When children today in the U.S. grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?

Better off	14%
About the same	21%
Worse off	45%
Not sure	21%

48. What do you think is the more important factor in determining why some people are richer than others?

How hard they work 21%
Whether they come from a privileged background 36%
Equally important 32%
Not sure 11%

49. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes 25%
No 65%
Not sure 10%

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

Total Liberal **30%**
Total Conservative **32%**
Very liberal 13%
Liberal 16%
Moderate 30%
Conservative 19%
Very conservative 12%
Not sure 9%

51. Are you registered to vote?

Registered 74%
Not registered 26%

52. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris 31%
Donald Trump 33%
Other 1%
Did not vote for President 35%

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

Democrat 29%
Republican 31%
Independent 29%
Other 5%
Not sure 6%

54. Political Party Identification
Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	21%
Not very strong Democrat	9%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	23%
Lean Republican	6%
Not very strong Republican	9%
Strong Republican	21%
Not sure	2%

55. Are you. . . ?

Male	48%
Female	52%

56. Respondent age by category

Under 30	21%
30-44	24%
45-64	32%
65+	23%

57. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	8%

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

HS or less	36%
Some college	29%
College grad	23%
Postgrad	13%

59. What is your marital status?

Married	40%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	6%
Never married	34%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	23%
No	77%

61. In what region of the country do you reside?
Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	16%
Midwest	20%
South	39%
West	25%

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

Under $50K	40%
$50-100K	27%
$100K or more	22%
Prefer not to say	11%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	17%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	21%
Never	34%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	29%
No	71%

65. 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	10%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	18%
Never	22%
Don't know	2%

66. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant 30%

Roman Catholic 20%

Mormon 1%

Eastern or Greek Orthodox 1%

Jewish 2%

Muslim 1%

Buddhist 1%

Hindu 0%

Atheist 6%

Agnostic 7%

Nothing in particular 22%

Something else 10%

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Sponsorship	*The Economist*
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 6 - 9, 2026
Target population	U.S. Citizens, age 18 and over
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
Sample composition	1,859 started the survey after screenouts. 180 were deleted due to breakoffs, 51 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 8 were removed for attention check failures, and 57 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,563 respondents.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, U.S. region of residence, 2024 election turnout and presidential vote, 2020 election turnout and presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. 2024 presidential vote, at time of weighting was estimated to be 48% Harris and 50% Trump. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given around November 8, 2024, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (31% Democratic, 33% Republican). The weights range from 0.052 to 6.451, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.943.
Number of respondents	1563 1405 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	$\pm$ 3.4% (adjusted for weighting) $\pm$ 3.2% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	5 questions not reported.