

The Economist/YouGov Poll

February 20 - 21, 2023 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted February 20 - 21, 2023
 Margin of Error ±3.2%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	32%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	10%

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

Excellent	7%
Good	22%
Excellent / Good	29%
Fair	28%
Poor	40%
Fair / Poor	68%
Don't know	3%

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

Unemployment	8%
Inflation	55%
Both equal	32%
Not sure	5%

4. Do you think the economy is growing or shrinking?

Growing	19%
Staying about the same	28%
Shrinking	41%
Not sure	13%

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

Yes	52%
No	28%
Not sure	20%

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

Very likely	5%
Somewhat likely	17%
Not very likely	12%
Not at all likely	3%
Not sure	11%
Not asked - Already in a recession	52%

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

More jobs	19%
The same amount of jobs	34%
Fewer jobs	32%
Not sure	15%

8. Do you think you will have a job next month?

Yes	42%
No	7%
Not sure	6%
Not asked - Not employed	46%

9. Are you a federal employee?

Yes	5%
No	47%
Not sure	2%
Not asked - Not employed	46%

10. Do you consider the following country to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Russia	3%	6%	25%	56%	10%
Ukraine	30%	44%	8%	5%	14%
China	5%	9%	33%	42%	12%
Belarus	5%	15%	19%	11%	49%

11. How important is the conflict in Ukraine to you?

Very Important	24%
Somewhat Important	43%
Not very Important	22%
Unimportant	10%

12. In the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, who do you sympathize with more?

Russia	6%
Ukraine	69%
Neither	16%
Not sure	9%

13. In the war between Russia and Ukraine, who do you think is currently winning?

Russia	22%
Ukraine	24%
Neither	32%
Not sure	22%

14. Who is more likely to be the eventual winner of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine?

Russia	26%
Ukraine	27%
Equally likely	13%
Not sure	34%

15. When do you think the Russia-Ukraine conflict will end?

Less than a month from now	1%
A month or two from now	5%
Two to six months from now	8%
Six months to a year from now	17%
More than a year from now	27%
Never	7%
Not sure	35%

16. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Vladimir Putin?

Very favorable	5%
Somewhat favorable	8%
Somewhat unfavorable	14%
Very unfavorable	60%
Don't know	13%

17. A year from now, do you think Vladimir Putin will still be the president of Russia?

Yes	43%
No	22%
Not sure	34%

18. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Volodymyr Zelensky?

Very favorable	29%
Somewhat favorable	28%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	10%
Don't know	24%

19. A year from now, do you think Volodymyr Zelensky will still be the president of Ukraine?

Yes	54%
No	12%
Not sure	34%

20. How familiar are you with the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty?

Very familiar	14%
Somewhat familiar	42%
Not very familiar	23%
Not familiar at all	21%

21. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. providing Ukraine with the following things?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Food and medical assistance	77%	12%	11%
Financial support	52%	31%	18%
Tanks	54%	28%	19%
Patriot missile defense system	51%	28%	21%
Fighter Jets	45%	33%	22%
Long range missiles	46%	33%	21%
U.S. Troops	25%	54%	21%

22. Do you want Joe Biden to run for president again in 2024?

Yes	25%
No	60%
Not sure	15%

23. Do you want Donald Trump to run for president again in 2024?

Yes	29%
No	57%
Not sure	14%

24. Thinking about high political offices these days, would you say it is generally easier for men or women to get elected, or does gender not make much difference?

Men	48%
Women	6%
Gender does not make much difference	38%
Not sure	7%

25. Do you think America is ready to elect a woman President, or not?

Yes	49%
No	28%
Not sure	23%

26. Do you personally hope that the United States has a woman president in your lifetime?

Yes	55%
No	18%
Not sure	27%

27. Do you think the United States will have a woman president in your lifetime?

Yes	50%
No	16%
Not sure	34%

28. If you honestly assessed yourself, how comfortable would you be with a woman President of the United States?

Entirely comfortable	46%
Somewhat comfortable	24%
Somewhat uncomfortable	9%
Entirely uncomfortable	9%
Not sure	11%

29. Do you think it would be a good thing or a bad thing for the country if a Democratic woman was elected president?

Good thing	42%
Bad thing	35%
Not sure	23%

30. Do you think it would be a good thing or a bad thing for the country if a Republican woman was elected president?

Good thing	39%
Bad thing	26%
Not sure	34%

31. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following person?

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	16%	19%	35%	9%	31%	40%	25%
Kyrsten Sinema	5%	18%	23%	16%	17%	33%	44%
John Fetterman	16%	18%	34%	10%	21%	31%	35%
Dianne Feinstein	10%	19%	29%	12%	24%	36%	35%
Ron DeSantis	24%	19%	43%	10%	26%	36%	21%
Nikki Haley	12%	22%	34%	17%	16%	33%	33%
Rick Scott	11%	20%	31%	9%	16%	25%	45%
Tim Scott	14%	17%	31%	10%	10%	20%	49%

32. Which of the following best describes your history of having a student loan?

I currently have a student loan	13%
I previously have had a student loan, but it is paid off	26%
I have never had a student loan	61%

33. In general, do you think student loan debt is something the federal government has any responsibility to address?

Yes	44%
No	40%
Not sure	17%

34. Do you support or oppose the federal government canceling up to \$10,000 in federal student loans for each person with student loan debt who earns less than \$125,000 a year?

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	11%

35. Do you think it is fair or not fair for the federal government to cancel up to \$10,000 in federal student loans?

Fair	44%
Not fair	39%
Not sure	18%

36. Overall, do you think that \$10,000 student debt reduction is ...?

Too much	32%
Too little	28%
About the right amount	23%
Not sure	18%

37. Eligible borrowers who meet a certain income bracket can apply to have all or part of their federal loans forgiven. From your understanding, do you qualify to have any federal student loan debt forgiven?

Among those who currently have a student loan

Yes	63%
No	20%
Not sure	18%

38. Which is more important?

The right of people to own guns	21%
Protecting people from gun violence	37%
Both are equally important	39%
Not sure	3%

39. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?

Personally own a gun	24%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun	15%
No one in the household owns a gun	52%
Not sure	8%

40. 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	54%
No change	27%
Make gun laws less strict	10%
Not sure	9%

41. Do you favor or oppose any of the following?

	Favor strongly	Favor somewhat	Oppose somewhat	Oppose strongly	Not sure
Banning semi-automatic weapons	42%	14%	11%	23%	10%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition	42%	16%	12%	19%	11%
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	57%	19%	8%	8%	8%
Creating red flag laws that allow a court to temporarily remove guns from people that are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others	47%	21%	9%	13%	11%
Establishing stricter requirements regulating the storage of guns in homes	41%	20%	10%	18%	12%
Establishing a tax on ammunition and guns that is used to finance violence prevention and school safety efforts	37%	19%	8%	23%	13%
Limiting who can be issued a license to carry concealed weapons	43%	21%	11%	15%	10%
Allowing cities to designate certain areas as 'gun free zones'	34%	17%	10%	24%	14%

42. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news recently about a mass shooting in which a gunman shot and killed three people at Michigan State University?

A lot	31%
A little	52%
Nothing at all	17%

43. Do you think that stricter gun laws would or would not have prevented any of the recent mass shootings?

Would have	37%
Would not have	43%
Not sure	20%

44. Do you think stricter police enforcement of existing gun-control laws would or would not have prevented any of the recent mass shootings?

Would have	39%
Would not have	36%
Not sure	24%

45. How much have you heard recently about the derailment of a train carrying hazardous chemicals in eastern Ohio?

A lot	41%
A little	43%
Nothing at all	16%

46. Generally, how safe or unsafe do you think it is to transport hazardous chemicals long distances by rail?

Completely safe	4%
Mostly safe	25%
Equally safe and unsafe	25%
Mostly unsafe	20%
Completely unsafe	16%
Not sure	10%

47. Should the government set more or fewer limits on the transportation of hazardous materials through populated areas?

More	54%
No change	21%
Fewer	8%
Not sure	17%

48. Which of the following do you think bears the most blame for the spill of hazardous chemicals in eastern Ohio? Select only one.

The workers on the train	14%
The transportation company that owns the train	65%
The government	21%

49. Do you think the President should or should not have the authority to forgive federal student loan debt?

Should have the authority	43%
Should not have the authority	41%
Not sure	16%

50. Do you think colleges should or should not be allowed to consider an applicant's race, among other factors, when making decisions on admissions?

Should be allowed to consider an applicant's race among other factors	22%
Should not be allowed to consider an applicant's race among other factors	64%
Not sure	14%

51. Do you think a state court should or should not be able to strike down state laws about presidential or federal elections in that state when the state court finds the law violates the state's Constitution?

- A state court should be able to strike down state election laws that violate its state constitution 55%
- A state court should not be able to strike down state election laws that violate its state constitution 17%
- Not sure 28%

52. Should business owners be allowed to refuse service to certain groups of potential customers based on the owner's religious beliefs, even if this means refusing service based on the customers' sexual orientation?

- Businesses should be allowed to refuse service based on the owner's religious beliefs .. 37%
- Businesses should not be allowed to refuse service based on the owner's religious beliefs 47%
- Not sure 17%

53. Do you think state legislatures should or should not be required to consider race among other factors when drawing up new election district maps?

- States should be required to consider race among other factors when drawing up new election district maps 22%
- States should not be required to consider race among other factors when drawing up new election district maps 60%
- Not sure 19%

54. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	65%	28%	5%	2%
Immigration	51%	30%	14%	4%
Climate change and the environment	41%	26%	17%	16%
Foreign policy	40%	41%	14%	5%
National Security	63%	28%	7%	2%
Education	59%	30%	7%	3%
Health care	63%	29%	5%	3%
Taxes and government spending	60%	31%	7%	2%
Abortion	45%	25%	16%	13%
Civil rights	57%	27%	11%	5%
Civil liberties	55%	30%	11%	4%
Guns	53%	30%	11%	6%
Crime	63%	27%	8%	3%
Criminal justice reform	50%	32%	12%	6%
Inflation/prices	71%	23%	5%	1%

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

Inflation/prices	19%
Health care	11%
Jobs and the economy	10%
Climate change and the environment	9%
National Security	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Immigration	7%
Education	5%
Civil rights	5%
Guns	5%
Crime	4%
Abortion	4%
Civil liberties	2%
Foreign policy	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Joe Biden	24%	22%	46%	11%	38%	49%	4%
Kamala Harris	17%	22%	39%	12%	38%	50%	11%
Kevin McCarthy	10%	24%	34%	17%	24%	41%	25%
Mitch McConnell	7%	18%	25%	21%	34%	55%	20%
Chuck Schumer	13%	21%	34%	13%	29%	42%	23%
Hakeem Jeffries	14%	15%	29%	12%	19%	31%	40%
Donald Trump	22%	20%	42%	11%	41%	52%	5%

57. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the political parties?

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	21%	22%	43%	15%	33%	48%	9%
The Republican Party	18%	23%	41%	19%	30%	49%	9%

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

Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	25%
Approve	44%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Disapprove	50%
Not sure	6%

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

	Strongly approve	Some-what approve	Approve	Some-what disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	21%	22%	43%	14%	35%	49%	8%
National Security	23%	22%	45%	11%	33%	44%	11%
Abortion	18%	21%	39%	14%	31%	45%	17%
Civil rights	20%	24%	44%	14%	28%	42%	15%
Civil liberties	18%	24%	42%	13%	29%	42%	16%
Crime	15%	22%	37%	15%	34%	49%	14%
Criminal justice reform	14%	21%	35%	17%	33%	50%	15%
Inflation/prices	16%	21%	37%	12%	43%	55%	8%

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

Honest and trustworthy	40%
Not honest and trustworthy	45%
Not sure	15%

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

Strongly approve	7%
Somewhat approve	16%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	27%
Not sure	10%

62. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	18%	24%	42%	13%	34%	47%	11%
Republicans in Congress	13%	25%	38%	20%	30%	50%	11%

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

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	23%
Not sure	28%

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

Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	27%
Not sure	24%

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

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	31%
Not sure	25%

66. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Hakeem Jeffries is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	18%
Not sure	39%

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

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	30%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	24%
Not sure	18%

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

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	10%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	19%
Not sure	20%

69. 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	14%	21%	13%	23%	30%
Neil Gorsuch	12%	21%	15%	14%	38%
Elena Kagan	14%	19%	13%	13%	41%
Sonia Sotomayor	19%	20%	12%	15%	34%
Samuel Alito	13%	22%	10%	16%	40%
John Roberts	10%	25%	19%	12%	35%
Amy Coney Barrett	16%	21%	10%	21%	32%
Clarence Thomas	21%	19%	9%	26%	26%
Ketanji Brown Jackson	19%	18%	10%	17%	35%

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

Getting better	17%
About the same	26%
Getting worse	49%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	29%
Lower	27%
Not sure	25%

72. 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	38%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	40%
Not sure	6%

73. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	11%
Somewhat worried	28%
Not very worried	62%

74. 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.	29%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	29%
Not very hard	27%
Not sure	15%

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

Very happy	27%
Happy	42%
Neither happy nor unhappy	22%
Unhappy	6%
Very unhappy	2%

76. Some people seem to follow what’s going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there’s an election going on or not. Others aren’t that interested. Would you say you follow what’s going on in government and public affairs ...

Most of the time	42%
Some of the time	28%
Only now and then	12%
Hardly at all	13%
Don’t know	5%

77. Would you say that Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 election, or not?

Biden legitimately won the election	66%
Biden did NOT legitimately win the election	34%

78. Do you identify as a MAGA Republican?
Asked of Republicans

Yes	38%
No	44%
Not sure	17%

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

Very liberal	9%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	12%

80. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	73%
Not registered	27%

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

Joe Biden	35%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	32%

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

Democrats	33%
Independents	36%
Republicans	31%

83. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	22%
Not very strong Democrat	11%
Lean Democrat	7%
Independent	16%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	20%
Not sure	5%
Don't know	0%

84. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

85. Respondent age by category	
Under 30	21%
30-44	24%
45-64	33%
65+	22%
86. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?	
White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	8%
87. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
HS or less	36%
Some college	29%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	13%
88. What is your marital status?	
Married	46%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	6%
Never married	31%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%
89. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?	
Yes	23%
No	77%
90. In what region of the country do you reside?	
<i>Calculated from respondent's state of residence</i>	
Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	38%
West	23%
91. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?	
Under \$50K	40%
\$50-100K	28%
\$100K or more	20%
Prefer not to say	12%

92. How important is religion in your life?	
Very important	37%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	23%
93. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?	
More than once a week	11%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	18%
Never	31%
Don't know	3%
94. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?	
Yes	35%
No	65%
95. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?	
Several times a day	25%
Once a day	14%
A few times a week	14%
Once a week	5%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	13%
Never	19%
Don't know	4%
96. What is your present religion, if any?	
Protestant	26%
Roman Catholic	22%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	2%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	21%
Something else	9%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	February 20 - 21, 2023
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.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2020 election turnout and Presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given prior to June 1, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (34% Democratic, 31% Republican). The weights range from 0.099 to 6.525, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.755.
Number of respondents	1500 1315 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.2% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	50 questions not reported.