

The Economist/YouGov Poll

January 2 - 5, 2026 - 1551 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1551 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted January 2 - 5, 2026
 Margin of Error $\pm 3.3\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction 33%
 Off on the wrong track 58%
 Not sure 9%

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 67%
 Not too significant 15%
 Not sure 18%

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

Strongly approve 22%
 Somewhat approve 17%
Approve **39%**
 Somewhat disapprove 10%
 Strongly disapprove 47%
Disapprove **56%**
 Not sure 4%

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

| | Strongly approve | Somewhat approve | Approve | Somewhat disapprove | Strongly disapprove | Disapprove | No opinion |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| The economy | 19% | 17% | 36% | 12% | 45% | 57% | 7% |
| Inflation | 16% | 16% | 32% | 13% | 46% | 59% | 9% |
| Taxes | 18% | 19% | 36% | 13% | 39% | 52% | 12% |
| Government spending | 16% | 18% | 34% | 14% | 44% | 58% | 8% |
| Investigation of Jeffrey Epstein | 12% | 12% | 25% | 11% | 46% | 56% | 19% |

5. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news about the Department of Justice releasing a trove of documents related to its investigation of Jeffrey Epstein?

A lot 44%
 A little 45%
 Nothing at all 12%

6. Should the U.S. government release all of its files from the investigation of Jeffrey Epstein?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 77% |
| No | 7% |
| Not sure | 16% |

7. Do you think Donald Trump is trying to cover up Jeffrey Epstein's crimes?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 49% |
| No | 30% |
| Not sure | 21% |

8. Do you think the United States should take an active part in world affairs or stay out of world affairs?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Active part | 44% |
| Stay out | 33% |
| Not sure | 23% |

9. How often do you think the U.S. should use military force to advance its policy goals?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Often | 6% |
| Sometimes | 30% |
| Rarely | 35% |
| Never | 17% |
| Not sure | 12% |

10. Do you think that U.S. foreign military interventions more often improve or worsen situations in the countries where they occur?

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Improve | 21% |
| Worsen | 43% |
| Neither improve nor worsen | 17% |
| Not sure | 19% |

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. military enforcing a complete blockade of sanctioned oil tankers in and out of Venezuela?

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Strongly approve | 21% |
| Somewhat approve | 15% |
| Approve | 36% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 14% |
| Strongly disapprove | 27% |
| Disapprove | 41% |
| Not sure | 23% |

12. Would you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to invade Venezuela?

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Strongly support | 13% |
| Somewhat support | 13% |
| Support | 26% |
| Somewhat oppose | 16% |
| Strongly oppose | 39% |
| Oppose | 56% |
| Not sure | 18% |

13. If President Trump wants to use military force in Venezuela, should he first seek authorization from the U.S. Congress?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 66% |
| No | 19% |
| Not sure | 15% |

14. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to overthrow Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro?

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Strongly support | 17% |
| Somewhat support | 15% |
| Support | 33% |
| Somewhat oppose | 13% |
| Strongly oppose | 31% |
| Oppose | 44% |
| Not sure | 23% |

15. Do you think the situation in Venezuela is a "national emergency" for the U.S.?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 22% |
| No | 52% |
| Not sure | 26% |

16. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling Venezuela?

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Strongly approve | 19% |
| Somewhat approve | 14% |
| Approve | 32% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 12% |
| Strongly disapprove | 37% |
| Disapprove | 49% |
| Not sure | 18% |

17. How serious of a threat do you think the Islamic State (ISIS) poses to the United States?

| | |
|--|-----|
| An immediate and serious threat to the U.S. | 27% |
| A somewhat serious threat to the U.S. | 37% |
| A minor threat to the U.S. | 17% |
| Not a threat to the U.S. | 5% |
| Not sure | 13% |

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent U.S. military strikes targeting ISIS in Nigeria?

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Strongly approve | 27% |
| Somewhat approve | 20% |
| Approve | 47% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 12% |
| Strongly disapprove | 17% |
| Disapprove | 29% |
| Not sure | 24% |

19. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling terrorism?

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Strongly approve | 26% |
| Somewhat approve | 19% |
| Approve | 45% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 11% |
| Strongly disapprove | 29% |
| Disapprove | 40% |
| Not sure | 15% |

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

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Excellent | 4% |
| Good | 22% |
| Fair | 33% |
| Poor | 38% |
| Don't know | 3% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Getting better | 24% |
| About the same | 21% |
| Getting worse | 52% |
| Not sure | 4% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Higher | 57% |
| About the same | 18% |
| Lower | 15% |
| Not sure | 11% |

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

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Unemployment | 7% |
| Inflation | 37% |
| Both equal | 48% |
| Not sure | 7% |

24. Do you think the amount that billionaires are currently taxed in the U.S. is too high or too low?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Much too high | 3% |
| Somewhat too high | 4% |
| About right | 16% |
| Somewhat too low | 16% |
| Much too low | 46% |
| Not sure | 14% |

25. Do you think the rich have too much political power in the U.S.?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 80% |
| No | 8% |
| Not sure | 12% |

26. How big a problem is the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. today?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very big problem | 52% |
| Somewhat big problem | 28% |
| Minor problem | 14% |
| Not a problem | 6% |

27. 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 | 59% |
| Should not | 21% |
| Not sure | 20% |

28. 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 | 13% |
| About the same | 17% |
| Worse off | 54% |
| Not sure | 16% |

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| How hard they work | 18% |
| Whether they come from a privileged background | 40% |
| Equally important | 32% |
| Not sure | 10% |

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

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Good time | 26% |
| Bad time | 19% |
| Not sure | 54% |

31. 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 | 41% |
| No | 59% |

32. About how much in total do you have invested in stocks and mutual funds?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| No money invested | 59% |
| Under \$50,000 | 14% |
| \$50,000 - \$100,000 | 6% |
| \$100,000 - \$250,000 | 6% |
| \$250,000 - \$500,000 | 4% |
| Over \$500,000 | 6% |
| Not sure | 5% |

33. How would you describe your social class?

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Working class | 47% |
| Middle class | 41% |
| Upper middle class | 11% |
| Wealthy | 1% |

34. 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 | 42% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 35% |
| Not sure | 5% |

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

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Better off financially | 26% |
| Just about the same as now | 36% |
| Worse off financially | 23% |
| Not sure | 15% |

36. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Very happy | 18% |
| Happy | 44% |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 29% |
| Unhappy | 6% |
| Very unhappy | 3% |

37. 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 | 8% |
| Slightly more | 34% |
| About the same | 42% |
| Slightly less | 6% |
| Much less | 4% |
| Not sure | 8% |

38. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very worried | 8% |
| Somewhat worried | 26% |
| Not very worried | 66% |

39. 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. | 22% |
| Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. | 44% |
| Not very hard | 23% |
| Not sure | 10% |

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

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Very easy | 17% |
| Somewhat easy | 22% |
| Somewhat difficult | 23% |
| Very difficult | 20% |
| Impossible | 18% |

41. 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 | 15% | 24% | 13% | 29% | 12% | 7% |
| Cars | 43% | 22% | 9% | 3% | 0% | 22% |
| Food | 56% | 26% | 7% | 8% | 1% | 3% |
| Housing costs (such as rent or mortgage payments) | 47% | 26% | 12% | 3% | 1% | 12% |

42. Have you put off any of the following this year in order to save money? Select all that apply.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Doing home repairs or maintenance | 30% |
| Doing car repairs or maintenance | 23% |
| Receiving medical care | 19% |
| Buying new clothes or other personal items | 42% |
| Going on a vacation or taking time off | 39% |
| Buying a gift for someone else | 31% |
| None of the above | 31% |
| Not sure | 5% |

43. Do you own or rent the place you currently live?

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Own | 52% |
| Rent | 37% |
| Other | 10% |

44. Has [the value of your home / your rent] increased or decreased over the past year?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Increased a lot | 17% |
| Increased a little | 38% |
| No change | 27% |
| Decreased a little | 6% |
| Decreased a lot | 2% |
| Not sure | 10% |

45. In the United States, how easy or difficult is it for families to find housing they can afford?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Very easy | 2% |
| Somewhat easy | 8% |
| Somewhat difficult | 39% |
| Very difficult | 40% |
| Not sure | 10% |

46. In your community, how easy or difficult is it for families to find housing they can afford?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Very easy | 2% |
| Somewhat easy | 13% |
| Somewhat difficult | 37% |
| Very difficult | 34% |
| Not sure | 13% |

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Inflation/prices | 30% |
| Jobs and the economy | 13% |
| Health care | 11% |
| Immigration | 9% |
| Taxes and government spending | 7% |
| Civil rights | 6% |
| Climate change and the environment | 5% |
| National Security | 4% |
| Crime | 3% |
| Civil liberties | 3% |
| Abortion | 3% |
| Guns | 2% |
| Education | 2% |
| Foreign policy | 1% |
| Criminal justice reform | 1% |

48. Are you a MAGA supporter?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 23% |
| No | 65% |
| Not sure | 12% |

49. 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 | 39% |
| The Republican Party candidate | 32% |
| Other | 2% |
| Not sure | 14% |
| I would not vote | 14% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Very liberal | 12% |
| Liberal | 17% |
| Total Liberal | 29% |
| Moderate | 30% |
| Conservative | 21% |
| Very conservative | 11% |
| Total Conservative | 32% |
| Not sure | 10% |

51. Are you registered to vote?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Registered | 73% |
| Not registered | 27% |

52. 2024 Presidential Vote

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Kamala Harris | 31% |
| Donald Trump | 32% |
| Other | 1% |
| Did not vote for President | 36% |

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

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Democrat | 30% |
| Republican | 32% |
| Independent | 27% |
| Other | 5% |
| Not sure | 7% |

54. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Strong Democrat | 20% |
| Not very strong Democrat | 10% |
| Lean Democrat | 8% |
| Independent | 19% |
| Lean Republican | 8% |
| Not very strong Republican | 13% |
| Strong Republican | 19% |
| Not sure | 2% |

55. Are you...?

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52% |

56. Respondent age by category

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Under 30 | 20% |
| 30-44 | 24% |
| 45-64 | 33% |
| 65+ | 22% |

57. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| White | 67% |
| Black | 13% |
| Hispanic | 13% |
| Other | 7% |

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

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| HS or less | 36% |
| Some college | 29% |
| College grad | 22% |
| Postgrad | 13% |

59. What is your marital status?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Married | 40% |
| Separated | 1% |
| Divorced | 13% |
| Widowed | 5% |
| Never married | 37% |
| 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 | 23% |
| South | 36% |
| West | 24% |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Under \$50K | 41% |
| \$50-100K | 25% |
| \$100K or more | 23% |
| Prefer not to say | 10% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| More than once a week | 6% |
| Once a week | 14% |
| Once or twice a month | 8% |
| A few times a year | 12% |
| Seldom | 23% |
| Never | 35% |
| 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 | 12% |
| A few times a week | 10% |
| Once a week | 2% |
| A few times a month | 7% |
| Seldom | 17% |
| Never | 23% |
| Don't know | 3% |

66. What is your present religion, if any?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Protestant | 30% |
| Roman Catholic | 18% |
| Mormon | 1% |
| Eastern or Greek Orthodox | 1% |
| Jewish | 2% |
| Muslim | 1% |
| Buddhist | 0% |
| Hindu | 0% |
| Atheist | 7% |
| Agnostic | 5% |
| Nothing in particular | 25% |
| Something else | 9% |

The Economist/YouGov Poll
January 2 - 5, 2026 - 1551 U.S. Adult citizens



| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | January 2 - 5, 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 | 1,883 started the survey after screenouts. 194 were deleted due to breakoffs, 92 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 6 were removed for attention check failures, and 40 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,551 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 6.57, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.878. |
| Number of respondents | 1551 1389 (Registered voters) |
| Margin of error | ± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.1% (Registered voters) |
| Survey mode | Web-based interviews |
| Questions not reported | 3 questions not reported. |